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COURTESY OF KELSEY KO

Some students have pointed out that the spaces available in MSE and Brody are not enough to accommodate the demand during exam season.

What should the library do to address seat saving?

By **ALYSSA WOODEN & MORGAN OME**
News & Feature Editors

Many students struggle to find a space to study in Brody Learning Commons or the Milton S. Eisenhower Library (MSE), especially during exam season. Often, students save themselves seats by putting down their belongings and then leav-

ing for extended periods of time, preventing others from using these spaces.

This semester, MSE is soliciting student input to address the problem of seat saving. The library has asked students to submit ideas via social media or through the library's suggestion box.

Heather Stalfort, director of communications and

marketing for MSE, said that the library does not intend to ban the practice of saving seats.

"We don't have any intention of stopping seat saving or policing it," she said. "We just really wanted to acknowledge some of the complaints that have come in recently and see if anyone has some solution."

She noted that seat saving is a recurring issue that students bring up during exam season but added that the library has received complaints earlier than usual this semester.

"We had enough students raise the issue, so we thought it was something that maybe our students

using the library could help troubleshoot," Stalfort said.

Although some students see seat saving as a major problem, others feel that it is generally acceptable. Senior Anshel Kenkare said that seat saving is only inconvenient during exam periods and that he rarely has trouble finding a seat.

"I've done it in the past, and I know my friends have done it in the past," he said. "It's an accepted phenomenon."

Junior Cassidy Speller, who has saved seats in MSE in the past, thinks library staff should focus on more important problems.

"If someone has been
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Historian explores lives of slaves at Homewood

By **HALEY HANSON**
For *The News-Letter*

The Homewood Museum hosted the latest event in the Architectural Lecture Series last Monday evening with a talk about the history of slave life on the Homewood Estate.

The talk was part of an initiative by the museum to bring awareness to the stories of enslaved people on the land now occupied by Homewood campus.

A b b y Schreiber, a lecturer at the College of William and Mary, discussed the spaces slaves inhabited and how they made a life for themselves.

"There's a lot of difficult history here," Schreiber said. "One way that we can deal with that is to learn more about it and understand more how it affected the people who were enslaved at Homewood."

In the early 19th century, this land was owned by Charles Carroll II, whose father was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Carroll II funded the construction of the Homewood House which Schreiber studied.

"I'm not going to be giving an architectural lecture. Rather, I'm going to be using

architecture to talk about social history," Schreiber said. "We are working on reinterpreting the spaces of Homewood to better reflect the multiple families and multiple people who dwelled in those spaces, who worked in those spaces."

Schreiber explained that researching this history was difficult with little concrete data and documentation. She elaborated on how she worked around that information gap to bring forward an accurate depiction of the lives of enslaved people at Homewood.

"We have a couple of tax records that tell us usually just the number and ages of enslaved people and their gender," she said.

From her sources, Schreiber estimated that during that time there were between two and 20 slaves on the Estate depending on the time of year.

Schreiber compared Homewood to other similar estates, such as Monticello, a plantation owned by former U.S. President Thomas Jefferson. It was recently discovered that Sally Hemings, a slave woman with whom Jefferson had children, inhabited

SEE **ARCHITECTURE**, PAGE A5

Students connect gender equity and sustainability



EDA INCEKARA / PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

The Feminist Mondays series informs students on sustainable practices.

By **COLE DOUGLASS**
For *The News-Letter*

Hopkins Feminists and Students for Environmental Action (SEA) tabled an event titled "Sustainable Sex" on Monday as part of a larger series of "Feminist Mondays," which aims to call attention to the issues intersecting feminism and environment sustainability.

Bhavitha Kotha, the vice president of Hopkins Feminists, said that they want to challenge students to think about feminism in new ways. She said that she had never before considered some of the things that the "Feminist Mondays" series addresses.

"We really want to focus on the intersectional aspects [of] feminism and how it overlaps with environmentalism, because we feel like people really tend to look at these issues in boxes," she said. "To care about one is, by definition,

to really care about the other."

According to SEA President Kyra Meko, the group has been looking to collaborate with other organizations promoting social justice.

"Environmentalism and feminism intersect in many areas, including concerns about access to resources and family planning, as well as the attention they both give to the disproportionate impacts of certain policies [and] events on low-income people of color," Meko wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

At "Sustainable Sex," the groups gave out sustainably-produced condoms, which are carcinogen-free and manufactured by laborers paid fair wages.

Kotha said that members of Hopkins Feminists spoke with students about how to practice sustainable

SEE **FEMINISTS**, PAGE A4

Pastor analyzes the role of faith in political activism

By **EMILY McDONALD**
For *The News-Letter*

Reverend Daryl Kearney discussed the intersections of race, faith and politics at the Bunting-Meyerhoff Interfaith and Community Service Center on Wednesday. The talk was the first part in a speaker series hosted by the JHU Social Justice and Equity Collective.

Lester Spence, the co-director for the Center for Africana Studies and associate professor of political science, moderated the discussion.

Kearney, who serves as the pastor of Turner Me-

morial African Methodist Episcopal Church in Hyattsville, Maryland, stressed the importance of tackling the roots of social justice issues in America today.

"We often go after the fruit that's hanging from America's tree: racism, sexism, classism, homophobia," he said. "We try to eliminate the fruit, when it won't tackle the roots. After a certain amount of time, the fruits will continue to come back."

He also addressed the role of religion in confronting society's problems.

"We worked to get the

voting rights, and we got it — that's fruit. But we didn't deal with the reasoning and the cause of why we had to fight," he said. "The church, the faith community, has the power to deal with the roots."

In reflecting on how faith can service disadvantaged people today, Kearney also discussed the history of the role of politics in black churches in America.

"There was this moment, particularly after the Civil Rights Movement, where a number of black churches were actually articulating a radical political message," he said.

Kearney elaborated that

people had the power to influence their religious leaders.

"They were doing so in part because they had ministers like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., but what really was happening was that you had this groundswell of people, and they pushed their pastors to do work," he said.

According to Kearney, there was a change in the political ideologies of churches during the 1980s, when consumerism and capitalism began to influence religious life. This led to a movement called prosperity gospel.

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Our Halloween throwback



Turn to the photo essay for cute throwback pictures of *The News-Letter* staff dressed up for trick-or-treating. **PHOTO ESSAY, PAGE A12**

Hook-up culture creates apathy

Lily Kairis addresses the prevalence of hook-up culture among college students and discusses its emotional side effects. **VOICES, PAGE A8**

The Color Purple is still relevant

Managing Editor Kelsey Ko shares her experience watching a performance of *The Color Purple* and talks about the musical's pertinence to our current political climate. **ARTS, PAGE B5**

Professors offer historical perspective on Rohingya refugee crisis



COURTESY OF NILE LIU
Islamophobia in Myanmar led many Rohingyas to migrate to Bangladesh.

By **TIANCHENG LYU**
For *The News-Letter*

Since August 2017, hundreds of thousands of Rohingya people, one of the many ethnic minorities in Myanmar (Burma), have migrated into the neighboring country of Bangladesh. The Rohingya, which are predominantly Muslim, have fled Myanmar, a predominantly Buddhist country, to escape violence and “ethnic cleansing” imposed by the country’s security forces. On Tuesday, three professors gathered to shed light on the historical development of the Rohingya refugee crisis, the current situation and its relevance to the rest of the world. The event, titled “A Teach-In on the Rohingya Refugee Crisis,” was hosted by the Department of Anthropology, Center for Islamic Studies, the Alexander Grass Humanities Institute and others. The teach-in featured panelists Nusrat Chowdhury, assistant professor of anthropology at Amherst College, and Navine Murshid, associate professor of political science at Colgate University. Hopkins Associate Professor of An-

thropology Naveeda Khan moderated the discussion. To provide historical context for the crisis, Khan shared personal experiences. She graduated from college and soon began working for the United Nations Human Rights Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in Bangladesh, where many Rohingya people were located. “In my own awareness, there was a major influx of Rohingyas into Bangladesh. In 1991, when the Rohingya people were pushed out of Burma, Bangladesh was initially quite joyous and welcoming. And the United Nations set up camps to accommodate Rohingyas,” she said. However, tension between the Bangladeshi and Rohingya groups began to build. “The camps became better administered — with the refugees getting schooling and mental health care — than some of the neigh-

boring villages where large populations of Bangladesh people lived. This weird dynamic created tension between the Rohingyas and the Bengalis, which led the Bangladesh government to push the people back to Burma,” she said. Khan also pointed out that today, unlike in the past, the Rohingya people are often viewed as Islamic terrorists. “These refugee camps were seen as a threat of the refugees leaving to assimilate into the Bangladesh population instead of hotbeds of Islamic terrorism, which was how the camps were portrayed in the international media,” she said. Murshid emphasized the severity of the current situation while calling into question past media coverage on the crisis. “The persecution of Rohingyas began in 1974, and the first wave of refugees entered Bangladesh in 1977. For the last 20 years, we have been saying that we’re living in the Information Age. However, it is only now, 40 years later, that their persecution has shocked the world,” she said. The Bengali government has been welcoming to the Rohingya people, according to Murshid. “Bangladesh has taken the moral high ground now. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina says, ‘If we can feed 160 million people, we can

feed another 700,000 refugees.’ She has also said that she expects no help from President Trump,” Murshid said. “In the context of the United States, where so many seem to think that refugees are burdensome, the GDP per capita in the U.S. is around 59,000, while in Bangladesh it is 1,300.” Murshid also commented on criticism surrounding Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of Myanmar and the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize recipient. Recently many have said that due to her government’s violence against the Rohingya people, her award should be revoked. “Such demand speaks to how she was seen as the bastion of human rights and democratic progress,” she said. “It is worth pointing out that this was her image only in the West.” Murshid added that Aung San Suu Kyi is perceived less positively in Myanmar than she is in the West. “During my field work in 2008 and 2012, it was clear to me that ethnic minorities in Myanmar did not see her in a similar way,” she said. “To them, she was a Burmese nationalist. Democracy without ethnic power-sharing will not bring peace.” Chowdhury also commented on how Islamophobia relates to the crisis. “We always need to question whenever we hear a category like terrorism,” she said. “But the issue of Rohingyas is not reducible to contemporary Islamophobia even though it clearly aligns itself with that.” Instead Chowdhury suggested that the crisis has much more complex historical roots.

“There has been disagreement about how long Muslims have been living there,” she said. “The year 1824, however, marked the official onset of British colonialism in that region. Colonialism comes with a huge bureaucracy that thrives on identification and the exclusion of certain identities.” She added that a lot of Buddhist inhabitants in Bruma have interacted with Muslims and Bengalis through their relationship with colonial bureaucracy. “This nexus among empires, migration and ethnic conflict is what we will need to keep in mind when we try to understand crises like this,” Chowdhury said. Senior Aleena Nasir, a member of the student organization United Muslim Relief, attended the teach-in. She first learned about the Rohingya refugee crisis while interning for the U.N., where she researched ways to protect human rights in areas with a high potential for genocide. “It’s so surprising that so many people don’t know about this issue,” she said. “It has just been really interesting to see the lack of international response, but also the response that is there remains very critical.” She added that remaining educated about the refugee crisis is crucial for students. “There are so many things going on. There are these questions of citizenship, democracy, economy and how we handle refugee crises in general,” she said. “As for the students, besides attending events like this, I think the main thing to do is just reading the news and staying informed.”

Daniels addresses increased crime rate

By **JACOB TOOK**
News & Features Editor

University President Ronald J. Daniels sent an email to Homewood students, faculty and staff to announce increased efforts from the University to bolster security on and around the Homewood Campus on Monday after another armed robbery near campus on Sunday. According to the Homewood daily crime log, which records crimes as they are reported, there have been 10 robberies since the beginning of the semester, eight of which were armed. This is a noticeable increase from previous years. According to the 2016 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, which was released earlier this month, only seven robberies were reported in 2016 and six in 2015. These incidents are part of a city-wide trend of increased crime. According to *The Baltimore Sun*, homicides spiked after the death of Freddie Gray in April 2015 and the uprising that followed. In 2015, the City saw 344 homicides and there were 318 in 2016. *The Sun* also reported that there have already been 289 homicides in 2017. In addition, as of this May, robberies were also reported to be up 17 percent from last year. In his email, Daniels reaffirmed the University’s commitment to keeping the campus safe, writing that Hopkins has increased the size of its security force. “We have been dogged in our determination to keep our campuses safe and secure, and we understand that a comprehensive and visible security presence is the best way to deter crimes,” Daniels wrote. He also wrote that the University recently added 12 security personnel and three patrol routes to the area east of campus, including along Guilford Avenue, where four armed robberies have occurred this semester. The University will also convene a special response unit of former police officers to address changing threats. Daniels wrote that he hopes to improve the lighting on the streets around campus and upgrade the University’s security cameras. He also said that Hopkins would work to create more University-affiliated housing options for upperclassmen that are closer to campus. Development projects like apartment complexes Nine East 33rd and Remington Row have led to improvements in the neighborhoods of Charles Village and Remington, according to Daniels. Daniels also addressed long-term efforts to reduce crime around campus. “The best long-term strategy to increase the safety of the campus community is to nurture and invest in neighborhoods for stable, mixed-income residents, strong schools, green spaces, and good public amenities,” he wrote.

Subcontracted workers rally for better wages and benefits

By **JACOB TOOK**
News & Features Editor

Unite Here Local 7 (Unite Here), the union that represents subcontracted dining workers on Homewood Campus, held a rally at the Inner Harbor on Thursday, Oct. 19 after a recent contract negotiation on behalf of workers at Horseshoe Baltimore, a casino near Camden Yards. Under their previous contract, non-tipped employees at Horseshoe earned a minimum of \$9.25 an hour, while employees such as table game dealers whose wages include tips earned as little as \$3.75 an hour. The new contract will increase the wages of tipped employees by 10 percent this month. By October 2021, tipped employees will earn at least \$7.90 an hour, and non-tipped employees will earn a minimum of \$14.67 an hour. The rally was part of the Unite Here: Union Day of Action!, in which subcontracted workers in 40 cities around the U.S. and Canada gathered to express their dissatisfaction with wages and benefit plans of big corporations. Gladys Burrell, who retired last spring after working in Hopkins dining facilities for 46 years, attended the rally. She said that she continued to work as the financial secretary of Unite Here over the summer but recently retired. Burrell, who was widely

known by students as “Mrs. Gladys,” said that she still attended the union’s events because she wants to support the fight for subcontracted workers. “There’s so many people out here who need our help who don’t have any help to turn to. They need our fight, so the harder we fight the better off some of those people will be,” she said. “It might not take a day or even a year, but as long as you keep fighting you can see the light at the end of the tunnel.” According to Burrell, low wages for workers make it hard for them to get out of poverty and become members of the middle class. She said that things like property taxes and health insurance are challenges for many workers because they often do not earn enough to make ends meet and receive no health benefits from their job contracts. She said that Unite Here was fighting so that subcontracted workers can escape poverty. “We want to have a nice home for our children,” she said. “People have to work two or three jobs just to try and make ends meet, so by the time you’ve done those two or three jobs you don’t have energy for anything. We want them to have a decent wage so that they can work one job and be home with their family too.” Alberta Palmer, an organizer with Unite Here, said that the rally followed

national demonstrations on behalf of groups like women and immigrants and was a response to attacks by the Trump administration on workers. She added that the food service and hospitality industry is worth about \$180 billion dollars. “For this to be a big, money-making business, we still have workers making minimum wage, we still have workers making \$11 an hour, we still have workers that can’t afford good health insurance,” she said. While Unite Here did not organize the rally to celebrate their newly negotiated contract on behalf of the workers at Horseshoe Casino, Palmer said that it was a good opportunity to make the announcement. She added that they wanted to demonstrate the power of the union and show other companies employing subcontracted workers that they were able to successfully negotiate with a large corporation like the casino. “They can pay better wages, they can create a better working environment, they can afford to

give workers great health insurance and we have to make that demand on [other] corporations,” Palmer said. “The Horseshoe had no business paying people minimum wage. We had no business fighting for two years to get the little that we did.” Palmer also referenced prospective employers like Amazon, which is considering Baltimore along with several other cities to be the home of its second headquarters. She said that the union wants the City to set a standard regarding worker contracts at prospective companies. The demonstrators marched from Inner Harbor to City Hall. “The question is not what we can do for them. The question is what can these corporations do for the citizens of Baltimore,” she said. “Are they going to come in

here and create good jobs, or are they going to come in here and work our citizens like they’re slaves?” Though Unite Here has worked with some local organizations, Palmer said that in the future they hope that more corporations will encourage workers to attend the rallies to increase community engagement. Burrell said that while the union is fighting now to set a standard for employers and ensure future success in contract negotiations, having a successful rally depends on the number of supporters. She encouraged more workers and community members to demonstrate to help workers be heard. “If you don’t fight for what you want you’ll take anything anybody gives you,” Burrell said. “You need to be better than that, and you’re worth more than that.”



COURTESY OF JACOB TOOK
Members of Unite Here Local 7, a union for subcontracted workers, marched to City Hall.

NEWS & FEATURES

Professor examines faith of Brazilian migrants

By DIANA HLA
For The News-Letter

As part of the Portuguese Program Speaker Series, Johanna Richlin, an assistant research professor in the anthropology department, spoke on Wednesday about the religious identities of Brazilian immigrants in a talk titled "The Gods of the Diaspora: Brazilian Migrant Faith in Comparative Perspective."

The Portuguese Program Speaker Series is put together each semester by Flavia Azeredo-Cerqueira, director of the Portuguese Language Program at Hopkins, which is run within the department of German and Romance languages and literatures.

She explained that this series allowed students to discover more about Portuguese.

"There is no way for students to really know a language without knowing the culture for that language," she said. "I find that it is my responsibility as director of the program to offer this extra-academic activity to fill this gap."

The series brings different professors and experts in the field to speak to students about various cultural aspects of the Portuguese population. Last semester, topics included affirmative action and race relations in Brazil and Latin American literature.

According to Azeredo-Cerqueira, the topic of immigration, as well as religion, seems particularly relevant today.

"Race and religion are very sensitive topics, especially as we are in Baltimore," she said. "People can be more aware of these topics and how they overlap here."

During the talk, Richlin spoke about trends in religious identification in Brazil. She also discussed how the immigration experience affects the religious identity of immigrants — specifically those immigrating from Brazil.

According to Richlin, many Brazilian immigrants are undocumented and fear for their safety. They also have to cope with separating from their loved ones.

"There are many negative emotions associated with migrant life, including loneliness, bitterness, fear and despair," Richlin said. "As a result of these emotions, immigrants often seek warmth and hope in religion. The migrant experience often pushes people closer to God."



COURTESY OF DIANA HLA

Richlin, left, researches trends in the religious identities of Brazilian migrants.

In addition to the increase in spirituality for Brazilian migrants, Richlin presented interesting trends in the faiths that the immigrants practiced. Evangelical Christianity as well as Spiritism have been on the rise, while Catholicism has declined.

Through fieldwork in D.C., Richlin identified driving forces behind these trends.

She explained that the Evangelical and Spiritualist churches approach the migrant experience differently from Catholic churches.

To Brazilian migrants, Richlin said, the Catholic Church seemed cold and solemn and lacked a sense of community.

"The particular challenges that Brazilian migrants faced in the United States drove religious yearnings that oriented migrants towards the Evangelical theology," she said.

According to the 2010 Brazilian Census, 65 percent of the Brazilian population identify as Catholic, though Richlin explained that many of these people practiced "folk-Catholicism," a combination of Catholicism and local cultural beliefs.

Because not all Brazilian immigrants identify as Brazilian, Catholic churches categorized Brazilian immigrants as immigrants/refugees/other, rather than under a specific culture.

Richlin attributed this broad cultural categorization as another reason why American Catholicism has trouble retaining followers from Brazil.

She explained that to Brazilian immigrants, Evangelical churches served as a counterpoint to the solemnity of Catholicism. Richlin believes immigrants felt Evangelical and Spiritualist churches appealed to the migrant experience by pointing to God as a source of hope.

Freshman Tali Lesser appreciated learning about how the Evangelical church presented itself to migrants.

"I especially liked her mention of the phrase 'The Church is a hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints,'" Lesser said. "It presents a very interesting perspective about what migrants are seeking."

The next event in the Portuguese Program Speaker Series is a talk by Alessandro Angelini, assistant research professor in the department of anthropology. The talk is titled "Dispatches from the Littlest Favela in Brazil."

Health professionals give minorities career advice

By DIVA PAREKH
Copy Editor

Lambda Epsilon Mu (LEM), the Latino pre-health honor society at Hopkins, organized a Health Professionals Roundtable on Tuesday, Oct. 24. The event took place in Charles Commons and featured four health professionals from underrepresented backgrounds: Dr. Lisa DeCamp, Dr. David Benavides, Sarahi Juarez and Alexandre Medina.

The Roundtable was part of the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA)'s celebration of LatinX Heritage Month and aimed to give students a better insight into various career paths within the health field.

Sophomore Julia Bernal, the LEM Health Opportunities Chair, discussed why LEM decided to organize the Roundtable.

"We heard feedback from members that they just wanted an opportunity

to speak to people who understood how being underrepresented in health professions feels," she said.

The event was structured as an informal roundtable discussion. Each of the four guest speakers was seated at a different table, and students were divided into four groups and rotated among the tables.

Bernal addressed the way the event was structured.

"We didn't want to just have a lecturer talking about their lives, we wanted to have a conversation flow," she said. "We wanted it to be much more informal."

Bernal talked about how LEM tried to represent different types of health professions and academic paths to give students a better idea of the opportunities available to them. The opportunities discussed during the event included medical school, PhD programs and public health professions.

Juarez is a program coordinator at Centro SOL, a Hopkins-affiliated organization that seeks to promote public health among Latinos. She has been in the role for a little over two months and was placed there through the Hopkins School of Medicine as part of the Baltimore Corps Fellowship.

Juarez discussed Centro SOL's role in the Baltimore community.

"Our mission statement is to provide equity in healthcare and opportunities and education among Latino populations in Baltimore," she said.

She talked about some of the programs that Centro SOL offers, encouraging Hopkins students to volunteer and get involved. For example, Testimonios is a mental health support program for adults and teenagers.

During most of Centro SOL's programs for adults, they also offer free meals and childcare services. Testimonios also offers a mental health support group for teenagers, which caters to 10 Baltimore high schools and has a total of 95 participants.

"A lot of these teens also need mental health support, because a lot of them are fleeing domestic abuse, violence or some sort of trauma," Juarez said. "We want to be able to help them in every single way."

DeCamp is also a core faculty member of Centro SOL, as well as an assistant professor of general pediatrics and adolescent medicine at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. She practices general pediatrics at the Bayview Medical Center and is the director of the Bayview Latino Family Advisory Board.

DeCamp's research is focused on improving both the access and quality of pediatric primary care, along with patient safety. She discussed the challenges associated with catering to the medical needs of the growing Latino population in Baltimore.

There's a lot of barriers to access health insurance, which means it's hard for you to get healthcare," DeCamp said. "There are several programs at Hopkins to help alleviate some of those barriers, but it's not a comprehensive insurance system."

Most children in these communities are second-generation immigrants, which makes them eligible for insurance like Medicaid. As a result, DeCamp observed that children and pregnant mothers are the primary demographics of the Latino population who seek treatment.

DeCamp concluded by talking about how she personally balances having a family and two kids with her career as a doctor and a researcher, emphasizing that it is important to plan and prioritize when starting a family.

Medina, who has a PhD, is an associate professor in the department of pediatrics at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. He completed his undergraduate and graduate



COURTESY OF JULIA DUVAL

Students had the opportunity to talk informally with healthcare professionals.

education in Brazil and moved to the U.S. for post-doctoral research at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Through his research, Medina has explored how early alcohol exposure affects the neuroplasticity of specific areas of the brain. His current focus is on the effect of external factors on how the brain processes sensory information.

Medina encouraged students interested in health professions to consider academia as a career path.

"Doing medical school doesn't mean that you can't do science. I think it makes you a better doctor if you think like a scientist," he said. "One of the most gratifying things in science is that every day is different, you have enormous flexibility."

He added that while there are difficulties associated with research and academia, students should still try to get involved.

"You're not in control of funding... and there are several things about academia that you may not like, but boredom is not one of them," Medina said. "You have a lot of freedom, and you can reconcile practice and research."

Benavides also works at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, where he is an assistant professor in the department of neurology. He directs a clinical neuroscience research program investigating the immune regulation of neuronal function.

Benavides, who has an M.D. PhD, received a research fellowship as an undergraduate, which fostered his interest in studying and working with the brain.

Though he did explore other fields, he urged stu-

dents to pursue opportunities in areas that they are passionate about.

"I fell in love. It was hard for me to get away from neuroscience," Benavides said. "[People] kept giving me opportunities and I kept trying to make the best of those opportunities."

Even for students not interested in pursuing a PhD, Benavides discussed how students can involved in research through fellowships available during medical school.

Benavides advised students interested in pursuing careers in health fields to avoid planning their lives out entirely.

"Take risks and fail in glorious fashion. Don't be scared, because that's when growth happens. Seek out advice from others, and have fun," he said.

After the event, junior Sabrina Mackey-Alfonso talked about the importance of having events like this at Hopkins to provide networking and resources that the Pre-Professional Advising Office lacks.

"The Pre-Professional Office has an [M.D. PhD] consultant on staff, but we aren't allowed to email him and only get to have a formal meetings with him the year we are applying, which is much too late, which makes this opportunity so much more important," Mackey-Alfonso said.

Sophomore Diego Cardona enjoyed the roundtable's speakers and its format.

"I wanted that one-to-one interaction with people in the field," Cardona said. "It's just given me more positive reinforcement, that it's okay to not know exactly what you want to do as long as you're happy with what you're doing and you're not afraid to take risks then it'll all be fine."

Miss Shirley's

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NEWS & FEATURES

Students promote sustainability and feminism



EDA INCEKARA/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

"Sustainable Sex," the second event in the series, occurred on Monday.

FEMINISTS, FROM A1

sex, by using products from environmentally-conscious manufacturers and thinking more openly about family planning and sexual health.

"Family planning has a very big overlap between environmentalism and feminism, because we have both the very important issues of women's choices and men's choices about what kind of families and lifestyles they want," she said. "That affects the environment in terms of climate change and population control."

The United Nations Population Fund, an organization working to improve global access to reproductive health resources, estimates that over 200 million women around the world lack access to effective contraceptives and other family planning methods. As a result, many women are unable to control when and how often they become pregnant, leading to increased population growth, which can negatively impact the environment.

According to the Population Reference Bureau, a nonprofit that collects statistics and other information about different populations around the world, attempts to match food production with population growth have led to deforestation, erosion and desertification around the world. Increased consumption of fossil fuels could also lead to greater carbon dioxide build-up in the atmosphere and higher levels of acid rain.

On Monday, Oct. 16, SEA and Hopkins Feminists hosted an event called "Feminist Food." They offered cupcakes from Deserts at Jessica's, a local, female-owned business, to address the importance of both purchasing food locally and supporting minority-owned businesses.

Kotha said that food typically travels 1500 miles from where it is produced to where it is prepared and sold in restaurants or markets. She added that the event aimed to encourage support for local female-owned stores.

"This has the multipurpose benefits of supporting these local, minority-owned businesses which have a harder time competing with chain stores," she said. "At the same time, you'd be eating locally, which is very beneficial for the environment. Local businesses generally tend to get their supplies locally, which supports urban farming and decreases transportation costs."

According to the Center for Urban Education about Sustainable Agriculture, a nonprofit encouraging sustainable agricultural practices, transporting a single kilocalorie of food costs

cotton," she wrote. "The event will provide information on ways to menstruate more sustainably and an opportunity to donate to an organization that facilitates access to menstrual resources for people who would otherwise not have them."

The Feminst Mondays series is part of Campus Sustainability Month, a campaign to promote student engagement with environmental issues during October. The Hopkins Office of Sustainability, which aims to reduce the environmental footprint of the University by making its campuses more environmentally conscious, coordinates Sustainability Month.

Alizay Jalisi, the president of Hopkins Feminists, further explained the group's aims in collaborating with SEA.

"Our goal is to have people on campus informed about how environmental justice is closely linked to the fight for gender equity," she wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. "Under our current presidential administration, minority groups (women, trans and non-binary individuals) are and will be disproportionately affected by climate change."

She added that the groups also hoped to engaged students on a more local level.

"Our second, related

goal is to leave people on the Hopkins campus feeling informed and inspired about the ways in which they can make affordable, healthy and environmentally sustainable choices in their everyday lives, whether they're eating, having sex, on their period or doing something else entirely," she wrote.

Freshman Nikita Gupta wrote in an email to *The News-Letter* that she originally stopped by the table for a free cupcake but was interested to learn more about the intersection between environmental sustainability and feminism.

"I was confused at how feminism and the environment related at all," she wrote. "Not much attention is given to this intersection; in fact, I've never even heard feminism used alongside environmental conservation."

She added that the tabling was an effective way of engaging students.

"Focusing [on] this intersection is valuable as both issues can [be] addressed in a way that is mutually beneficially and can draw support from feminists and environmentalists," she wrote. "Looking at the issues together, I'm surprised by how seemingly unrelated areas can overlap and be solved together as one problem."

Pastor explores faith as a political catalyst

RELIGION, FROM A1

"Prosperity gospel articulates a message that suggests that if you follow... the word of the Bible, you will not only be spiritually prosperous, you will be materially prosperous," he said. "What that tends to do is exacerbate wealth inequality within black communities."

Kearney explained the role of politics in his personal belief system.

"I felt and believed that the church should be the center of community.

"Politics is basically decisions, and those decisions come from your beliefs."

— DARYL KEARNEY, PASTOR

that faith community."

Kearney emphasized the importance of community and collective identity in religion today.

"I just feel that we have lost our sense of community... I am one who believes that the church has embraced that American ethos of commercialism," he said. "We fail to realize that if you hurt, I hurt, if you're successful, I'm successful."

Religion and faith should not be wholly individual experiences, according to Kearney. Instead, people should use faith to service their communities and build connections with others.

"Each and every one of you has something special, has a passion, a gift that was endowed to you by the creator, and it's not just for you, for your own personal self-aggrandizement, but it's for you to make an impact... to be a benefit to the whole," he said.

Revolutionary figures often play an important role in times of oppressive rule, according to Kearney. He cited Jesus Christ, who was born under Roman occupation, as an example. He said that the political leaders of the time persecuted those who did not follow their laws.

Kearney acknowledged the role of the Trump administration in highlighting many of the social justice issues at the foreground of political thought today.

"The one good thing that [Trump] has done is that he has uncovered the reality of America. It's no longer hidden by a two-

piece suit, the blue suit and the badge. It's out in the open, and the sad part is that sometimes God has to bring about chaos in order for us who are within the faith community to actually wake up," he said.

Senior Lydia DuBois came to the talk because she is an intern at the Interfaith Center and is interested in politics. She appreciated the idea of using faith communities to promote change.

"I liked the question about 'community' being a word to describe disadvantaged people," she said. "How do we use the word 'community,' and how do we use the church as an institution, as a vehicle for community activism?"

DuBois related some of the points of the talk to her own religious background and discussed the importance of bringing together religious and secular communities.

"My family talks a lot about faith as a vehicle for change," she said. "I know that in the U.S., a lot of people don't belong to a faith organization."

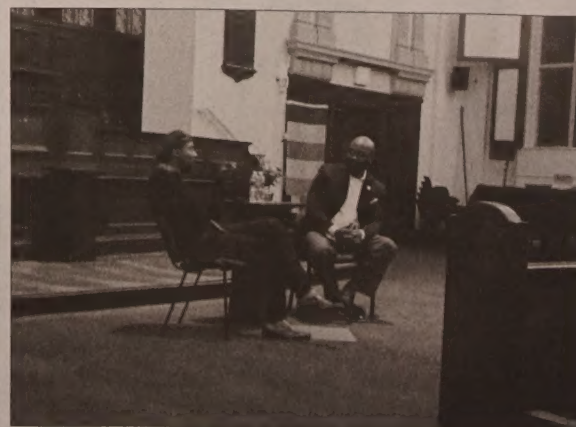
Senior Hana Clemens was interested in using religion as a means to unify people with different political opinions.

"The part that I was really interested was talking across the aisle politically, with Trump-supporting churches versus black churches, and I don't know how to do that," she said. "How do you use your faith as like a basis to communicate with each other? Because that's something I struggle with, too: how to build dialogue."

The Social Justice Collective, which hosted the event, connects a number of University offices including the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Center for Africana Studies, the Center for Social Concern, Office of LGBTQ Life, Campus Ministries and the Urban Health Institute.

Carla Hopkins, assistant director for diversity education, explained that the Social Justice Collective stresses the importance of bringing together experts on race, faith and politics in today's political landscape.

"We're at a critical junction in American history, one that exposes the fault-lines of race, faith, and politics," she said.



COURTESY OF KELSEY KO

Rev. Daryl Kearney spoke about faith and politics at the Interfaith Center.

Scientists translate obscure languages

By VALERIE CHAVEZ

Senior Staff Writer

A team of computer scientists at the Johns Hopkins Center for Language and Speech Processing recently received a \$10.7 million federal grant to develop technology to translate obscure languages. Currently there are only well-established translation interfaces, like Google Translate, for the 100 most commonly used languages.

The grant was awarded by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI), which oversees the U.S. intelligence community.

Philipp Koehn, a professor of computer science, will lead the research group. He has been working in machine translation for over 20 years.

"These are definitely the languages we haven't ever built anything for," Koehn said. "These are languages where Google Translate doesn't necessarily have systems for because they haven't bothered."

The languages covered by the grant, which include Kurdish, Serbo-Croatian, Khmer, Hmong and Somali, are known as "low resource" languages. Speakers of these languages are not widely distributed across the world. "Low resource" languages also have little written material.

In an effort to expand their intelligence resources, the DNI is seeking to translate "low resource" languages more quickly to aid national security efforts, as intelligence agents often need to translate material in the languages encompassed by the grant.

Koehn added that these systems of translation could potentially be used in the event of an emergency, where people might need

to help aid regions that they cannot easily communicate with.

"If something happened in these countries... you type in a query, it looks at all of the relevant documents in that foreign language and gives you an English summary," he said.

One of the main challenges of the project is building translation systems for languages that are not typically used in writing.

"There's very little translated text or transcribed speech, so it's harder to build anything for those languages," he said. "That's the hard part of our project."

Koehn elaborated that the lack of data made it more difficult for machine learning systems to develop translations. He explained that many of the languages they plan to work with have very few translated texts or transcribed speech, making them more difficult to work with.

However, once the data is obtained, the group will be able to develop translations using algorithms that analyze the structure, inflection and other elements of the language. The techniques to develop translations are already well established and are simply implemented on new languages. The researchers do not need to analyze speeches themselves in order to translate them.

After obtaining data for Swahili and Tagalog last week, Koehn was able to build a translation system in less than a day.

Although machine translation features in various devices, websites and social media, Koehn recalled how many were skeptical of machine translation in its early days.

"I did my PhD on [machine translation], and it's interesting to see some-

thing that, 20 years ago, definitely did not work," he said. "Now we're really at a point where it's there."

However, Koehn acknowledged that computer translation still has its limitations, and there are nuances in language that cannot always be accounted for in their algorithms.

For this particular project, Koehn said that the majority of the money would go towards funding new PhD students and could help support as many as 11 PhD candidates and post-doctoral fellows.

"In computer science and engineering, all the PhD students get a scholarship, and that costs a lot of money," Koehn said.

As Koehn described, this project includes many different researchers. The group consists of around 20 professors and other researchers working on this particular project.

Daniel Povey, an assistant research professor, is a member of the research team. He described the project as an opportunity to expand and test different technologies — including speech, translation and information retrieval technologies — that the group has been developing.

"We're integrating different complex technologies... and they have to work in real-world conditions that might not match the data they were trained on," Povey wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Another member of the team, Kevin Duh, an assistant research professor, is enthusiastic about the project.

"Besides the emphasis on research in low-resource languages, the project's holistic approach... will help us bring research to practice," Duh wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*

NEWS & FEATURES

The history of enslaved people at Homewood

ARCHITECTURE, FROM A1
the space in Monticello where bathrooms were installed in 1940. Schreiber noted that the Homewood Museum also has basement bathrooms that were installed in 1917.

"One wonders what might those bathrooms be obscuring," Schreiber said. "There are several chambers in the basement of [the museum], there are several chambers on the second floor, and it seems absolutely likely that enslaved people occupied some or all of those spaces at one point or another."

Other possible past locations of slave housing on the estate are the exterior structures, such as a farm house dubbed 'Owen House,' which was demolished in 2002.

Schreiber described

how Owen House had additions to the main building, possibly to add living spaces.

The coach house, another demolished building, was built around 1804 to house Carroll's robust collection of horses and carriages. This structure could have served as housing for the three coachmen who worked there.

Schreiber concluded the talk by discussing the difficulty slaves faced when settling into life at Homewood. A summer home for the Carrolls, Homewood was largely uninhabited for about half the year.

Schreiber explained that it was also never a self-sustaining agricultural enterprise, which means that slaves were mostly domestic and accordingly even more sub-

ject to the whims and activities of their masters.

"For many of the enslaved people, throughout this whole period, there is no consistent home... They're moved around a lot," she said.

Schreiber explained that since she began her career as a docent in 2012, the Homewood Museum has learned much more about slaves on the Estate.

"We're definitely not done. There's a lot more that can be learned about these individuals and these families," she said.

In an effort to understand and disseminate the untold stories of slaves on its property, Schreiber said that the Homewood Museum is looking to include more information about the family of Charles Carroll as well as the slave families that lived at Homewood.

"What we're working on right now is reinterpreting the basic house tour that you would get if you walked into Homewood," Schreiber said. "We're going to start talking about the different families of Homewood."

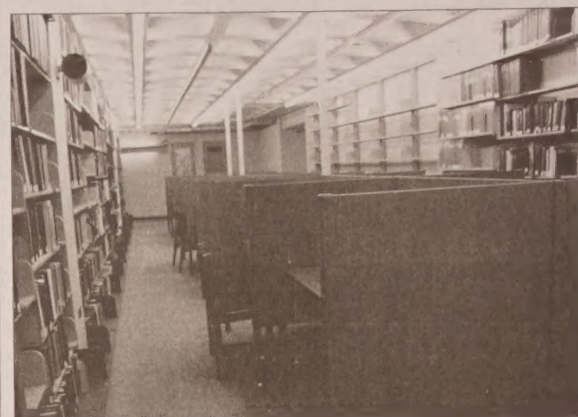
J u l i a



FILE PHOTO

New research has shed light on the lives of enslaved people at Homewood between 1800-1825.

Library solicits student feedback on seat saving



FILE PHOTO

Students often struggle to find a place to sit in Brody during test season.

LIBRARY, FROM A1

gone that long you can move their stuff," she said. "I leave for 20-40 minutes, but I don't think it's a big deal."

MSE staff has posted advertisements in Lav Notes, on the TV screens in Brody and MSE and on social media. Students can provide input via Facebook and Twitter, as well as the suggestion box located across the elevators on M-level.

The library has already received a number of suggestions, which are posted on a bulletin board on M-level. Stalfort noted that some of the suggestions have called for better communication between students.

"One of the suggestions was just jotting a note, like 'back in an hour,'" she said. "If you're not going to be there, maybe someone could use your seat during that time."

Sophomore Max Jarcho is a member of the MSE Student Advisory Committee, a group that provides feedback to the library. He noted that this issue has been discussed in committee meetings in the past and agreed that increased communication is important.

"We settled on the idea that the most effective solution would be to establish community norms so that people understood when it's acceptable to leave your stuff, how long to leave your stuff and if it's acceptable to move someone else's stuff," he said.

Jarcho also said that the Student Advisory Committee wanted to take measures to acknowledge the problem of seat saving.

"Because of the amount of space we have and the amount of students using the library... there should be something in place to

stop people from leaving their stuff so long," he said.

While Kenkare believes that preventing students from saving seats may not be feasible, he does think that creating additional study locations could be a helpful.

"A student center would be helpful, especially because [there are] people who are just hanging out and casually working... and people who are trying to grind," he said. "Having both those people in the same sort of takes up a lot of space."

For sophomore Olivia Chan, finding a space to study during exams is often a challenge, even on the quieter levels of the library. She believes that students should explore other locations on campus.

"Other study areas need to be advertised more, like Gilman or Mudd," she said.

Junior Adam Strickland does not think that the seat saving problem is unmanageable. He also thinks that monitoring study spaces is difficult and inefficient.

"You never know just how long someone has been gone, unless you station people individually in an area, which is not really a good use of resources," he said.

Over the next couple of years, MSE will be making preparations to renovate the library, according to Stalfort. She said that MSE is considering adding more study spaces.

Jarcho added that MSE is committed to incorporating student feedback into their renovation plans.

"Part of the renovation is to bring more natural light in, to add more study spaces and classrooms and make it a more open space for more people to work in at once," he said.

SGA discusses mental health and sustainability

By **TRISHA PARAYIL**
For The News-Letter

The Student Government Association (SGA) discussed mental health on campus, sustainability initiatives and upcoming events at their weekly meeting on Tuesday.

Junior Class President Ash Panakam announced that the Health and Safety Committee will be holding the Stop the Stigma event in November.

The aim is to reduce the stigma of mental health on campus with programming activities like sticker distribution and small group discussions.

"It is really our responsibility as a University to really help with this issue," Panakam said.

Panakam mentioned that the Milton S. Eisenhower (MSE) Library will soon be undergoing renovations, and there have been calls to create zen meditation spaces for students. She also suggested creating a counseling room in the library so students can talk to counselors.

SGA also welcomed Ashley Pennington, the program manager for the Office of Sustainability, who talked about her office's objectives and vision for the upcoming school year. She stressed that stu-

dent behavior has a large impact on making the campus sustainable and eco-friendly.

Pennington said that students can play their part in making the University greener by using the compost bins located in all the residence halls and across campus and participating in the move out collection program.

They can also use the water bottle filling stations and sign up for free food alerts, a texting service that reduces food waste by notifying students about events with leftover food.

"At the end of the day, we are trying to make sustainability visible, tangible and experiential, and we are trying to do that through all the outreach activities and platforms that we have," Pennington said.

Sophomore Class Senator Alex Walinkas affirmed the importance of the SGA being a strong proponent of sustainability efforts on campus.

"Class councils have to take the lead," she said. "As the SGA, we should be an example to follow."

She added that students organizing events, large or small, can help to reduce and divert waste by following the zero-waste model found on the Office

of Sustainability website.

Orientation, commencement, move in, move out and the Spring Open House and Overnight Program (SOHOP) are all major events that have achieved zero-waste.

Junior Anthony Garay, the executive officer of TCO Labs, spoke about the entrepreneurship opportunities at Hopkins. He talked about Square One, a networking event; the distribution of entrepreneur guidebooks; and iCubed series, an innovation workshop.

"People can come and solve problems which later develop into projects, develop into start-ups," he said. "This year's theme is disabilities and different opportunities to innovate around disabilities."

Garay also requested that SGA provide funding assistance with TCO Labs' initiatives.

Following the presentation, senior Daphna Varadi and freshman Andrew Massoud talked about the upcoming Dance Marathon, which is a fundraising event for the kids at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center, the local branch of the Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

Executive Vice President AJ Tsang and Sophomore Class Senator Dean Chien concluded the meeting by updating SGA on the current status of the recommendations released by the University's Task Force on Mental Health and Wellbeing.

The Taskforce released

draft recommendations in May that outline ways the University can address mental wellbeing.

They are in the process of reaching out to faculty to make sure that staff and professors are equipped to assist students. Tsang highlighted that the recommendations seek to address the culture at Hopkins and offer concrete solutions to tackling mental health for students.

"We recommended... fundamentally changing how our University and how each academic departments gives out grades, gives out exams," he said.

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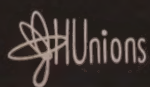
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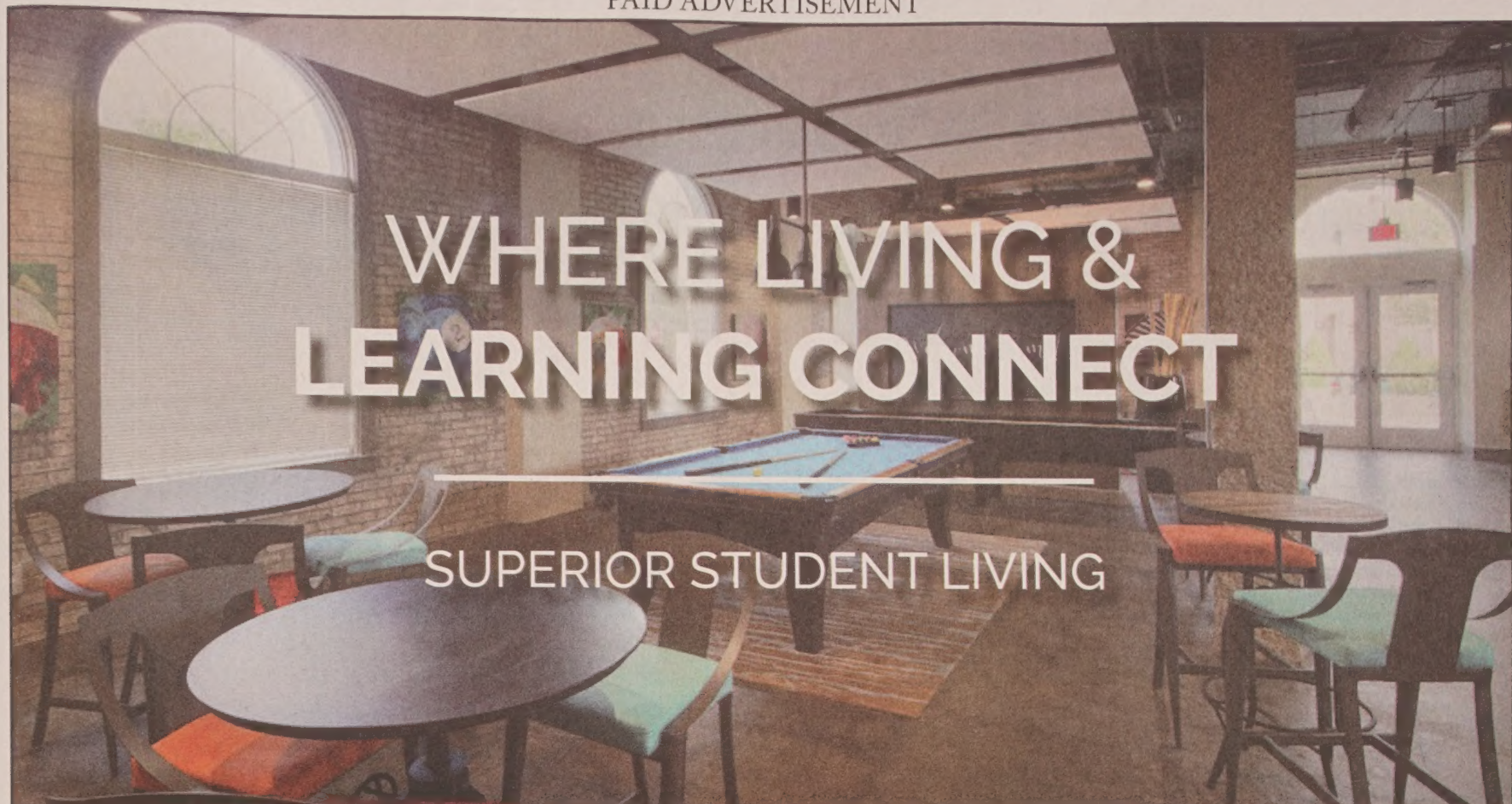
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VOICES

Hopkins is a diverse university, where an incredible mix of cultures, academic interests and personalities coexist and thrive...

A chronicle of my first time making pancakes



Sudgie Ma
Bone Apple Tea

Last year one of my suitemates randomly decided one night that she'd try making pancakes for the first time, and they came out perfectly. They were beautiful and delicious. Wolman Six West got to enjoy a true delicacy that one fateful night.

During the week, I decided on a whim that I would try my own hand at it. It seemed so simple. Just mix up the batter, scoop it onto a buttered, heated skillet, wait 10 seconds, flip it, wait another 10 seconds and they're done, right?

The inner competitive spirit was also pointing out to me that if my suitemate could get it to work her first time, it couldn't have been that hard. Right?

Well, no. I learned that my suitemate is just a natural at the art of pancake making, and I sadly did not have this innate ability. My pancakes came out somewhat misshapen and burnt. It turned out that 10 seconds was actually way too long for a single side, because I had the heat turned on high.

I didn't want salmonella or raw eggs anywhere near my sensitive digestive system. I get queasy at even the thought of eating rare meat; I always get my burgers or fancy meat well-done.

But it turns out that the heat should actually be somewhere closer to medium, since pancakes have such a short cooking time.

But it was okay. Minus the burnt parts, the pancakes were overall still edible and yummy. I was satisfied with my first-time pancakes on the whole.

Of course, my standards for what constitutes edible food have also lowered since coming to college, but other people who tried my pancakes enjoyed them as well.

By "enjoyed," I mean they didn't complain about them. I actually ran out of enough pancakes to give to all my friends that wanted them, if that means anything.

I made a promise to one friend that I'd make more the next day, and I did. However, something unexpected happened: They were even less circular. They looked like paint splatter.

For some reason, day two's pancakes completely lost any shape that they had once I flipped them. They still tasted fine to me and my friends, but they looked even less aesthetically pleasing.

While these to-be pancakes' bottoms were solid and borderline burnt on the skillet, the front sides were still completely uncooked. So when I'd flip one of those pancakes, the batter would just splash all over the sides

of the skillet. I also had the heat on medium that time around, and I think it ended up working against me, because a high heat might have helped semi-cook the front side of the pancakes before flipping.

My best guess as to why my second attempt at pancakes ended up worse is that the batter I made had too much liquid that time around. All the ingredients I put in except the milk were measured to match the standard recipe I used.

But when it came to the milk, since I was near the end of the carton, I decided just to dump the rest in. From what I eyeballed, it seemed to be a cup.

I most likely ended up putting in more milk than necessary on the second day. Plus I'm really not a careful person, so I wouldn't have noticed if the batter was thinner.

I don't understand why I decided to be lazy for that one step, considering I measured everything else by the respective cup or spoon. I definitely paid the price for it, and I learned my lesson about making pancakes: It requires precision.

Besides pancakes, I've also been making plenty of fried rice lately. What's bad is that I got too used to the lack of measuring required for fried rice dishes.

Fried rice is something that I've pretty much got down and can't mess up, because eyeballing measurements works perfectly fine. If I put too many vegetables, that's actually great. If I put too little soy sauce, that's also perfectly fine. Fried rice always works. Pancakes don't.

Making pancakes seems like such a simple task, but getting that perfect, golden-brown circular result is actually so difficult. I think I should just stick to stir fry for now, where I can get away with laziness.



Lily Kairis
Lil Musings

A few months ago, I was casually browsing my podcast subscriptions when I stumbled upon an episode of NPR's *Hidden Brain* that caught my eye: "Just Sex." The subtitle read "Hookup culture: The unspoken rules of sex on college campuses."

Ahh, I thought. This must be good. So I pressed play and listened attentively as a sociologist specializing in relationships and adolescent development explained how college campuses foster a culture of emotional distance. The lessons felt all too familiar.

As a college senior, I have three plus years of hookup culture under my belt. I have wing-womaned my friends at bars and house parties; observed the strange mating rituals of dates at fraternity formals; agonized over the subtexts of meaningless interactions (Why doesn't he send any emojis? Why didn't he make eye contact when I passed him in Brody Cafe?); and mastered the art of nonchalance.

This isn't something that comes naturally to me. In fact if we had it my way, college dating would look a lot more like a terribly-written 1980's rom-com crossed with a Jane Austen novel.

When someone has a crush, they would simply write the object of their desires a hand-written letter detailing their appreciation and leave it at the other person's doorstep.

They would then meet up that evening at the masquerade ball (because, of course, there are balls every

week). The two would share a choreographed waltz. If the wooed individual isn't feeling it, they would simply finish the dance, bow and depart. No hard feelings.

But if the wooed individual was indeed feeling "the vibe," the couple would finish their dance, retire to the gazebo in the back garden and spend the next few hours deep-talking and sharing their favorite songs. It would be glorious.

Okay, I'm 80 percent kidding. Even as I wrote that, I was shuddering in embarrassment at myself. If some random dude actually left a handwritten letter at my doorstep, I would probably be quite sketched out. And learning a choreographed waltz sounds like far too much effort.

But the point is that I am a die-hard romantic at heart.

From my childhood spent binge-watching 1940's romantic comedies to my ballroom dancing education (yes, I legitimately was taught ballroom dancing and etiquette skills for four years) to my parents' and grandparents' obsession with telling their courtship stories — well, I was basically screwed.

I arrived to Hopkins with rose-colored glasses superglued to my face, prepared for meet cutes and heartfelt serenades, and I was met with the grim reality of casual sex.

At my very first frat party freshman year, I remember watching my first two college friends as boys approached them and asked them to dance, then they kissed sloppily against the brick wall. Both of those female friends would later regard these interactions with disgust, but at that time, I was in awe. I was shocked.

I thought, what just hap-

pened? What mysterious secrets of flirtation did my new friends understand that I did not? And how did three sentences exchanged with a stranger quickly transition to aggressive groping against the wall?

Oh, sweet, innocent little Lily. I had so much to learn. As I would later realize, college courtship is nothing like 1940's films. In fact, it isn't really courtship at all. When people hook up, it doesn't necessarily mean that they connect on an emotional level. It doesn't even mean they want to get to know one another.

All that it means, really, is that one body enjoys the presence of another body, in a purely physical sense. Lisa Wade, the sociologist featured on NPR, also argued that

hookups are about "bolstering reputations," and honestly, I could see that too.

Many are the nights when I praise my female friends for their hot, accomplished,

well-connected, socially-woke conquests, in a way that — if I'm being totally honest — is rather uncouth. No human, male or female, wants to be spoken about like a checkmark on a list or a gold medal to place in an ever-increasing trophy case. People are people, not prizes. But the Hopkins sexual culture would argue otherwise.

I know there's nothing I can change about the way things are. As you're reading this, you're probably thinking, "Yeah, I get it. And?" waiting for the other shoe to drop or for me to tell you something you don't already know. Because yes, hookup culture isn't really breaking news. It's something we expect, and it's something we're forced to embrace as college students, or else we

risk loneliness or social isolation. But since it's my senior year, and I will soon depart from this institution and enter the wide world of adulthood, I figured I needed to come out and say what needed to be said: Hookup culture is idiotic, really.

I'm so confused as to why it became normal for people to play this game of apathy. Listening to NPR, there was a line that stuck out: "Students have to go out of their way to 'perform meaningfulness.' They have to prove that they're not emotionally attached to their sex partners, and in fact that they care less than the other person." What the fuck? It's a contest to see who is less invested? When did it become sexy not to care?

I, for one, think caring is the most attractive quality on the planet, and I feel personally offended by this notion. But beyond that, I'm downright afraid of the quality of peoples' relationships if they live by these rules.

Hook-up couples, according to this idea, coexist in a purely transactional relationship, brought together by only convenience, hormones and a promise of reciprocity (I scratch your back, you scratch mine). They communicate in detached terms, both paralyzed by the fear that they might show the other person that — gasp — they actually feel something. "Catching the feels" is spoken about with the same hushed horror as venereal diseases.

With all this pretending and all this restraint, there is little room to feel legitimately connected. There is little opportunity for any real, meaningful relationships — whether they be fleeting or not — to develop. Sure, maybe I'm biased by my romantic leanings, but I can't help but think about all of this and mourn the college hook-up culture and the poor souls it enslaves.

Because, when all is said and done, does it really amount to anything?

When people hook up, it doesn't necessarily mean that they connect on an emotional level.

The slightly nutty facts about everyone's favorite nutty snacks



Meagan Peoples
Think About It

It's no secret that the world has been going a little nuts lately. In fact it's hard to get away from it. You turn on the news, you read the paper, you watch late night television, and the signs are everywhere. But living under all that is more than a little stressful. So I'm here today to help distract you all with something even more nutty: nuts.

Nuts are a type of fruit with a hard shell and edible seed. However, some of what we refer to as nuts in cooking are not considered nuts by botanists, like my personal favorite nut, the cashew. Nuts are the little seed houses of nature. They contain all the nutrients needed for little

baby plants to grow up.

Warning, you're about to learn some rather unappetizing facts: Nuts are technically just a dry fruit, which means that like all fruits, it is formed from the ovary of the plant. But as for what gives it that unique crunch (which I hope most people don't associate with ovaries), why, that's simply the ovarian wall drying as the fruit matures.

As it turns out, nuts are rather hard to classify. For example, walnuts have some characteristics which make people believe they're "true nuts" and others that make people think they're not. These types of nuts get their own category, the drupaceous nut. The name is derived from drupe fruits such as peaches or plums, things with fleshy exteriors and a single seed enclosed in a hard, almost stony material. Almonds are actually the seed of a drupe fruit and, ergo, are not real nuts.

Another nutty subcategory is the nutlet. It is also sometimes called a pyrena, and it refers to the stone within a drupe.

As I said earlier, nuts are the source of energy for new plants. This means that they are high in fats, calories, oils, vitamins and a bunch of other things which are super useful. This is why so many of us eat them. In fact it was found that 40 percent of adults consume nuts on a given day. This includes culinary and non-botanical nuts. And approximately 80 percent of these were found to be the whole nut or seed as opposed to nut products such as butter.

The CDC even claims that eating about 1.5 ounces of nuts per day (about 240 calories worth) can decrease the risk of a variety of bad things like cardiovascular disease, obesity and diabetes. It's worth noting that it's hard to tell if it is the nut directly which creates this change rather than the substitution of nuts for other, more unhealthy snacks.

Although nuts have always been popular, the recent health craze has really pushed them over the top. Many people point to California agriculture as one

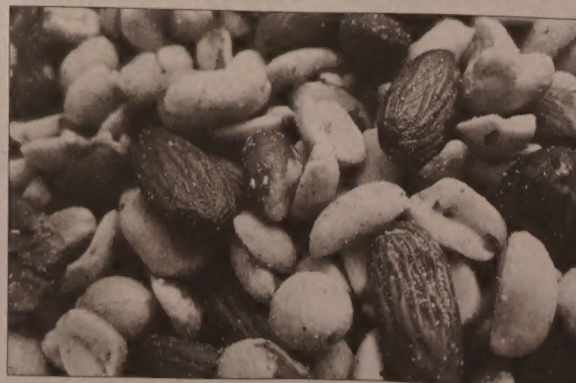
of the biggest culinary nut producers in the world. In 2012, 790,000 acres of land produced almonds. Each of the acres yielded, on average, 2,390 pounds. That is a crazy amount of almonds (please respect that I resisted the urge to say "a nutty amount").

However, it's because the nut business is so hugely profitable that 10 percent of California's water went to almond farming in 2014. It's not just the weather that makes our West Coast neighbor such a drought-ridden state. It's also their devotion to very water-

heavy agriculture.

So yes, as it turns out, nuts aren't all fun and games. They're a serious, multi-million dollar industry. In fact, it's thought that it takes about 1.1 gallons of water to grow a single almond.

However, I wouldn't go cutting nuts out of your diet just yet. How much water does it take to get you that quarter pounder? About 150 gallons. So while it's important to stay water-conscious, there's no need to rush straight to boycotting nuts. Not having cashews with my morning cup of oatmeal? Well, that would be just nuts.



PUBLIC DOMAIN
Many things we consider to be nuts are not considered as such in botany.

VOICES

Here is the section where you can publish your unique thoughts, ideas and perspectives on life at Hopkins and beyond.

Best TV to watch while procrastinating

Modern Family

Most sitcoms are pretty easy to watch without using much brain power, the perfect thing after a long day of not doing homework.

Mindhunter

Learn something new about the history of serial killers. That's almost like doing that psych reading, right?

Rick and Morty

If you're feeling more than a little bit cynical about life, this is the perfect thing to watch. So it's basically a great show for all Hopkins students.

Friends

The best thing to watch while "trying" to do homework. Best of all, if you're a true fan you can watch it on mute and still understand what's happening. That's almost like doing homework distraction free.

American Vandal

If you're a fan of serial podcasts and *The Onion* but are a visual learner, maybe check this show out.

Futurama

A classic comedy with tons of seasons. Basically a great show with enough episodes to help you procrastinate through the rest of the semester. I recommend picking it up right as finals week starts.

Interesting facts to get you through midterms



Ariella Shua
Internet Expeditions

Fall break just ended, which means one thing: lots of homework to get done, because most of the professors here do not seem to be aware that we had a vacation. But fall break also means that I had more time to procrastinate actually completing this homework, because exploring the internet can be much more interesting than writing essays.

Here are the questions and answers, helpfully provided by the internet, that I found more pressing than the questions my professors had assigned this week:

Why do seashells sound like the ocean?

At some point in their lives, everyone seems to have thought that shells were somehow able to bottle up the sound of waves, even once they were no longer located in the water. I wish that this were the reason, because it would be nice and symbolic, but it's not the case.

The sound has nothing to do with water. Instead, seashells just do the same thing that putting a cup over your ear would do. When the ear is surrounded by a shell or cup, ambient noise bounces around the structure that covers it. If you are in a loud area, the ocean's sound will be louder. It depends on how much outside noise surrounds you, along with the size and shape of the shell. Additionally, if you put a seashell to your ear in a soundproof room, no noise will be heard.

Which came first, Coke or Pepsi?

Coke was invented first, but it began as an alcoholic beverage, not a soft drink. Dr. John Pemberton, a pharmacist from Georgia, developed French Wine Coca in 1885. The beverage was likely inspired by coca wine, a mixture of cocaine and wine, which had been developed in 1863. When parts of Georgia passed Prohibition legislation in 1886, Pemberton changed the makeup of his drink to exclude any alcohol. Now renamed Coca-Cola, Pemberton advertised the beverage as a patent medicine.

Pepsi was initially invented in North Carolina as Brad's Drink in 1893 by Caleb Bradham. In 1898, Bradham switched the name to Pepsi-Cola, although pepsin was never included as an ingredient. Pepsi was also advertised as being a healthy drink during its early days.

It should also be mentioned that Coca-Cola offered to buy Pepsi-Cola (who declined the offer) three times between 1922 and 1933. The two companies have been competing in the ongoing "cola wars" for decades as a result.

Who decided to put pineapples on pizza?

It wasn't anyone from Hawaii, even though Hawaiian pizza usually includes pineapples as a topping. The creator of pineapple pizza was actually Greek, and he invented the strange food hybrid in Canada. In 1962, Sam Panopoulos decided to put pineapples on pizza at

his restaurant, well aware that it was not a common combination. Panopoulos was just experimenting to see if he could attract more customers. The pizza was not named after the state but after the brand of canned pineapple from which Panopoulos chose his fruit.

Who invented homework?

I wanted an answer to this so that I would know who to blame for the nights I've had to sacrifice sleep for a grade. In general, homework is not the most exciting way to spend your time.

It is difficult to pinpoint any one person who may have created such a general concept. The internet seems to believe that Italian educator Roberto Nevilis began giving his students take-home assignments in 1095. However, there is no definitive proof that this is the case or that Nevilis even existed.

The first obvious mention of homework in American history can be traced to California. In 1901, homework was essentially banned in California for children between kindergarten and eighth grade. But once the Cold War began and the Soviet Union began making headway in scientific fields, America changed its mind. Homework began to be reintroduced to the average American schoolchild, and it is now, unfortunately, an all too common staple of daily life.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

The reason you can hear the ocean isn't magic or even blood vessels.

Kalanithi's beautiful reflection on life and mortality



Bessie Liu
Write Me

I first heard about *When Breath Becomes Air* from one of my high school friends. In between discussions about AP Biology and how much we wanted to meet Sanjay Gupta, we talked about the different books we had read about doctors reflecting on the various experiences and trials they encountered throughout their careers.

When we got to the topic of mortality, she asked whether I had read *When Breath Becomes Air*, and I said the usual "No, I haven't, but I really should; I really wish I had more time to read."

I forgot about the book for a while, having been consumed by my college applications at the time, and the next time I was reminded of it was when my mom told me she was going to read it this summer.

This surprised me, because my mom never reads any books, and I felt that she wanted to shame me into reading it as part of her campaign to find me new material on which to write this column. So I ended up reading the entire book on my flight back to Baltimore.

Dr. Paul Kalanithi's sto-

ry is a moving one. He had been nearing the end of his long neurosurgery residency when he was diagnosed with stage four lung cancer. Faced with the prospect of ending his career just as it was about to start and of leaving his pregnant wife behind, Kalanithi found himself struggling to answer questions on mortality and the purpose of life.

He had only posed those questions out of curiosity while studying English in college — questions he hadn't expected to face while on the receiving end of the scalpel. The writing of *When Breath Becomes Air* was catalyzed by his realization that he wanted to leave something larger than himself behind.

My first impression was that out of all the medical books (for lack of a better term to describe the genre) that I've read, I don't think any of the authors view and write about literature with the reverence Kalanithi has.

From using a quote from Samuel Beckett ("I can't go on. I'll go on.") in order to guide his decisions regarding his future as a surgeon, to using lines from T. S. Eliot's "The Waste Land" to convey the grimness of his cancer spreading, Kalanithi shows he has a clear understanding of the value of literature in making sense of his own life's meaning and purpose.

Kalanithi's book is divided into two sections. The first half details his time in medical school and his residency, and the second half details his reflections on

neurosurgery and medicine and the beginnings of his forays into writing.

Early on in the timeline of the book, Kalanithi writes, "When there's no place for the scalpel, words are the surgeon's only tool." Though initially intending this to mean that heartfelt communication with the patient is just as important as any skill a doctor might have in the operating or exam room, these words take on a new meaning once Kalanithi decides to discontinue his career as a neurosurgeon after undergoing several rounds of cancer treatment. Writing becomes the new focus of his life, displacing medicine as his way of making a meaningful contribution to the world.

As a doctor forced into becoming a patient himself, Kalanithi was exposed to both sides of medicine. He describes the incredible responsibility of being a physician with the following: "in taking up another's cross, one must sometimes get crushed by the weight."

He is put into the unique but undesirable position of knowing just how heavy his own cross is after he is diagnosed. Once Kalanithi absolves himself of responsibility for his own treatment and allows himself to just be the patient instead of the doctor, his sense of relief is a turning point in the book.

The most heart-wrenching part of Kalanithi's decline is not that he has to lose the future he has carefully planned out for himself for years, but that the future he could have had with his wife and newborn daughter cannot be planned out at all.

In this legacy that he leaves behind, he highlights the courage required to persist and adapt despite facing insurmountable challenges. As his wife eloquently points out in the epilogue of the book, what we can learn from their ordeal is "the inexplicability of life and death, and the ability to cope, to find meaning despite this, because of this."



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Kalanithi had to take a critical look at his surgery career after his diagnosis.

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NEWS-LETTER

Editorials

Building a new Amazon HQ
in Baltimore cannot leave
Baltimoreans behind

Over 200 cities, counties and territories in the United States, Canada and Mexico are currently in a bidding war to become the home of Amazon's second headquarters, dubbed HQ2. The popular Seattle-based online retail company is currently reviewing proposals, at least two of which came from Baltimore.

One bid is vying for Amazon to build HQ2 at Port Covington, a waterfront development in South Baltimore near Federal Hill. The proposal is backed by Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh and other local officials. Executives from Under Armour, the Baltimore-based sports apparel company, have also endorsed this proposal.

Under Armour is looking to construct a new campus of its own at Port Covington, which is owned by Under Armour CEO Kevin Plank's private firm Sagamore Development Co. Sagamore believes that the new campus could accommodate Amazon's needs.

Critics have pointed out that this development by the Inner Harbor will

widen the divide between the city's rich and poor and perpetuate socioeconomic segregation. These are legitimate concerns, and we believe in an alternative proposal for HQ2 in Baltimore.

The second Baltimore proposal, submitted by the Old Goucher Community Association, calls for Amazon to build HQ2 in Station North. According to the Baltimore Brew, the Association hopes that Station North's proximity to several Baltimore colleges, including Hopkins, will be a strong selling point. The Association also notes that Amazon could bring economic opportunities to impoverished areas in West Baltimore.

Having a tech giant so close by would undoubtedly offer students incomparable internship and employment opportunities and could potentially lead to a beneficial partnership between Amazon and Hopkins in the future.

We recognize that if Amazon builds HQ2 in Baltimore it will be extremely beneficial for the student body, but we know that this project will have a greater impact on Baltimore than Hopkins. We

can only support HQ2 in Baltimore if it is designed in a socially conscious manner that recognizes the inequalities that exist in our city.

We believe first and foremost that every resident of Baltimore should be taken into consideration if Amazon chooses our city. The headquarters should not benefit one subpopulation at the expense of another as has happened all too often in Baltimore.

We recognize as students that our desires should take a back seat to the interests of citizens who will continue to call the city home after we graduate and likely move elsewhere.

The proposal submitted by the Old Goucher Community Association takes great initiative to consider a more holistic approach, but we are concerned about how such a project could displace current residents.

If Amazon chooses Baltimore to serve as the site for its second headquarters, we hope that the company would work to provide economic opportunities for those Baltimoreans who need it most.

An intersectional take offers
a fresh perspective

Throughout the past month, the Students for Environmental Action (SEA) and Hopkins Feminists have come together to discuss and highlight the intersection between feminism and environmentalism through weekly themed tabling events.

Last Monday, the groups paired up to illustrate how environmentalism and safe sex connect. For example, they promoted using reproductive products from environmentally-conscious manufacturers and understanding the environmental effects of child birth.

Although not evident at first glance, these links are

creative and unique, especially because the environment and sex are highly relevant parts of our lives. The events hosted by these two student groups also serve as a reminder that our social issues are not singular: everything has a connection. As such, when analyzing any given topic, one should keep in mind that societal problems are multi-faceted.

The Editorial Board commends SEA and Hopkins Feminists for taking the lead in hosting these innovative events. We believe that approaching issues from different standpoints is crucial to gaining a more holistic understanding and

engaging a larger segment of the student body. We also appreciate that SEA and Hopkins Feminists chose to focus these events on particularly relatable issues, namely sex and the environment.

To facilitate the growth of intersectional discussions on campus, we encourage all student groups to work on ways to collaborate and discover new ways of understanding their interests.

Student groups are one of the University's greatest assets and when working together they can reach a wider audience and approach issues from a fresh perspective.

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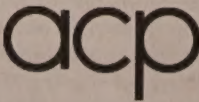
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OPINIONS

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Go ahead: break the cycle, text back fast



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Kim argues that our tendency to act detached is ruining relationships.

By NICOLA SUMI KIM

Here's a list of things I will never understand: calculus, cilantro-haters, people that think it's okay to walk slowly down narrow pathways in large groups. And yet, among this already comprehensive list of daily grievances, there is one that sticks out far more than any others, one that happens to be quite a familiar occurrence among college students these days — the insistence of our generation to remain aloof online.

Picture this: You've met somebody you're interested in, and they seem to reciprocate the feeling, so you get their number. You've been thinking about them. You reach for your phone to send them a text, but something stops you. Wouldn't texting them right away be clingy? It's not like you actually care about them. I mean, you do, but they shouldn't know that, right? You decide to wait three days and eventually text them a simple, "hey." You feel like that was the right thing to do, but you really feel unfulfilled.

What was the point of that aloofness?

You must wait to respond to their Snapchat. You can like their Facebook profile picture but only a couple hours after they've updated it.

Somewhere along the way, these arbitrary rules established themselves as fact. Any violation of these rules, and suddenly you're out of line — you've broken that facade of aloofness, and now the person you're talking to knows that you're thinking about them, you're looking forward to talking to them and that you're engaged in their lives. When you step back and evaluate this whole ritual, the absurdity of it all is indisputable. If you're talking to someone in the first place, some level of attachment has been established already. What's the point in trying to diminish this? What's the point of appearing so aloof that the other person begins to question the level of interest?

This veil of detachment backfires as people grow more and more convinced of the other party's indifference. Waiting to text back ends up complicating relationships that could otherwise be very simple and enjoyable, but more than that, having a culture in which we all feign disinterest in one another not only impairs relationships but also fosters inevitable systematic loneliness.

Multiple sources, including *Forbes* and *Psychology Today* have asserted that our generation is the loneliest group currently alive. Their arguments are mostly centered around FOMO or the fear of missing out. Social media, they assert, creates unreasonably high expectations for how our lives are supposed to look, and so we all feel inferior compared to what we see online.

I would take the argument even further. We are lonely because others' lives appear better than our own, yes, but especially so because we turn around and refuse to acknowledge that we are lonely. Instead we all play into the illusion of business and indifference and aloofness. We crave meaningful human interactions but then refuse to show it. Why? Because we want to play into the societal norm of not actually caring when perhaps we should. Continuing in this culture of "too cool for you" is detrimental to every participating member. We should embrace the opportunities we do have to connect.

If you like someone, you should tell them. If you miss them or love them or want to be with them, you should tell them. If you like the way they wear their hair or if you enjoyed talking to them that one time at a party or if you'd like to spend more time with them, you should tell them. These small moments of vulnerability will ultimately create relationships that are more simple, that are more connected and that are more freeing.

Nicola Sumi Kim is a freshman majoring in Global Environmental Change and Sustainability and Writing Seminars. She is from London.

Humanities internships, and students, deserve more credit

By MIA BERMAN

Hopkins students love to talk about their research. Admissions advertises research as one of the key reasons to come to the University, and it seems as if every student is involved — at least, every STEM student. Research is much less common among students interested in the humanities and social sciences. For these students, internships are the best way to get experience.

Internships are not particularly popular at Hopkins; especially during the semester. This is largely because of the way that Hopkins systematically ignores and disincentivizes internships. The most obvious way that Hopkins disincentivizes its students from pursuing internships during the semester is through the lack of credits offered for completing internships. While research is offered as a graded course on a scale of one to three credits based on how many hours are spent researching, internships only count for one credit, regardless of hour requirements.

Furthermore, internships are only offered pass/fail. This has a definite impact on students' decisions to intern. Students might not think that the internship is worth the time and effort they need to spend participating. Internships are usually time consuming and even require large portions of time to be reserved for travel.

If a student can spend three hours a week in the classroom for three credits that semester, versus over 10 hours a week at an internship for one credit, the choice for many that are seeking to graduate either on time or early is clear. Similarly, if students need to improve their GPA, a pass/fail internship will not allow them to do so, which might result in students refraining from programs during the semester.

While students often discuss the importance of interning over the summer, the University rarely stresses or advertises the importance and advantages of interning during the semester. During the semester, internships are much less competitive to get because fewer students are available to intern. Most have less time to work and might not be in the right location to intern easily. Senate offices are great examples of how semester-based students are at an advantage.

Over the summer, most Senate offices get hundreds of applicants for a few coveted spots. During the semester, the average number of applicants drops significantly. Additionally, while summer internships only last two to three months, a semester long internship can encompass anything from two to five months. Interning during the semester is not only easier to accomplish — it might be more beneficial in the long run because students get more experience in their workplaces.

However, internships' strengths aren't the only thing students have to consider when applying for semester-long opportunities. Interning during the school year comes with its own price tag. Most internships require a minimum of 18 hours a week, or two full days, although this can certainly be split up over the course of three to four days.

While most research occurs on campus or at a Hopkins subsidiary that is a relatively short and free commute away, internships can be based anywhere.

Many students interested in disciplines such as political science, international studies or history might find that the best internship opportunities are available in Washington, D.C., which is at least a two hour, \$8 one-way trip away. Students aren't only "paying" for their experience because they won't receive adequate credit. They are literally paying more money to get to where they need to go.

So why does this matter? Similar to how research helps STEM students decide what they are interested in pursuing post-graduation, internships allow humanities and social science students to experience their options. Two years ago when John Mulaney came to campus, he was calling on students in the crowd to introduce themselves. He called on several STEM students and asked them what they planned on doing after graduation. They all had answers. Then he called on an International Studies student. She had no clue.

Internships help humanities and social science students narrow down their interests, but it also helps connect these students to potential employers. Many offices prefer to hire their own former interns. Even if they do not have openings for their own interns upon their graduation, these offices will often use their connections to ensure that successful interns eventually find a job in another office.

Moreover, most offices, even if they do not hire their own interns, do want to see that the person that they are hiring has prior experience in that specific field. Having a good GPA from a well-known school is simply not enough anymore. Most people hiring, especially hiring those straight out of college, care very little about GPA or even majors. Instead they want to know that the individual they hire knows how to operate in a workplace setting.

Internships are an amazing opportunity for humanities students to gain experience and a better sense of what they might want to do post-graduation. The University should actively encourage students to intern during the semester, as well as incentivize student internships during the semester by offering graded internships on a one to three credit scale, similar to research. If the University wants to continue to recruit bright students interested in humanities and dispel the myth that Hopkins is only for STEM and pre-med students, this might be a good start.

I have had the privilege of being able to intern during the semester multiple times and currently am interning at the Democratic National Committee in D.C. These opportunities are rare; there is no other time in our lives where we can try out so many different fields and organizations with little to no negative long-term consequences. I regret not taking advantage of these opportunities sooner, but I would urge the administration to encourage more students to intern during the semester. I wouldn't trade my experiences for any amount of research.

Mia Berman is a senior philosophy, International Studies and Africana Studies major. She is from Hopkins, Minn.

In light of new Fox host, consume news diligently

By JACQUI NEBER

Megyn Kelly's struggle moving from Fox News to a morning show on NBC has been well-documented, as has her subsequent lack of personality. What made Kelly so divisive (and terrifying) at Fox has changed: In her new position, she is utterly palatable and utterly bland.

To fill the void, Fox has introduced a new controversy to its lineup in the form of Laura Ingraham, one of the staunchest Trump supporters to appear on the network. What's worse than even Kelly's past indiscretions is Ingraham's slated time slot: 10 p.m., the most coveted time on television. 10 p.m. gathers the most viewers each night, and whoever hosts that hour of news has the most potential to incite their audience.

Fox's conservative slant has always been obvious, but its commitment to affording what is arguably the most important slot to such a potentially harmful host is mortifying. Ingraham isn't just another conservative. She isn't another Megyn Kelly. Ingraham is a new host whose fans cheered "Build the Wall!" after she denounced Senator Jeff Flake for criticizing the President. She is, as *The New York Times* puts it, "an ardent nationalist, a Trump confidante, and a foe of open borders."

Ingraham has a long history of troubling behavior in the media. At Dartmouth, she wrote for the school's *Review*, and once assigned a reporter to a meeting of Dartmouth's gay student alliance. That reporter named students in attendance in an era when homosexuality was not universally accepted. *The Review* published the piece with names intact. The damage possibly inflicted by this decision could have been severe.

Ingraham later apologized — and everyone makes mistakes — but from a student journalist's perspective, this history is objectively frightening.

During her time as a commentator for MSNBC, Ingraham's on-air comments garnered outrage from viewers. On one television appearance she said, "No one wants to see fat people on the cover of magazines in swimsuits." She has worked with Steve Bannon for *Breitbart*. She describes the coasts of America as "parentheses," seeming to pledge focus on middle America, "the country."

Most importantly, Ingraham told *The Times* that a Megyn Kelly-esque softening will not be happening on her watch. Departure to a daytime show on NBC can be seen as a personal defeat for Kelly. In her new role, she seems compressed and stiff, weak without the strength-of-self a spot at Fox allows.

Ingraham will not be watered down.

"No," she said in an interview with *The Times*. "I won't be doing that."

Ingraham's appointment is scary. It's scary because I know how much the media can influence public opinion. It's scary because what we consume has an immeasurable power over how we think about other people. It's scary because over the summer, Fox took the primetime ratings lead from MSNBC. The network no doubt hopes to keep this lead with Ingraham's introduction. Her commentary will probably cause a firestorm of public opinion, creating more views.

According to *Forbes*, Fox officially beat MSNBC on Wednesday, July 26. That night 2.59 million people watched primetime (8–11 p.m.) Fox programs, while only 2.40 million tuned into MSNBC. Crucially, Fox also beat its competitor in the 25 to

54-year-old viewer demographic.

A demographic of 2.59 million people might not seem like a lot compared to the 10 plus million viewers some of the most popular television shows garner every week. That would actually be a terrible rating for primetime spots on other channels. But for Fox, those 2.59 million viewers represent victory.

The media influences all of us, whether public opinion is stirred by a controversial article in *The News-Letter* or by a flagrant Fox News host. We've become very aware of the power of media, especially on this campus, especially during and after the last election cycle. Laura Ingraham's appointment to Fox's most coveted spot is a metaphor for how acutely aware news networks are of their power too.

How do we fight back against gigantic media institutions? I would say don't watch Fox News, but I doubt the majority of us on this campus will be tuning into Ingraham in the first place. The fight boils down to creating our own continued awareness, not just of the power of media but how it influences how we view others. This doesn't just apply to Fox and Ingraham. Every media outlet has the power to persuade for good or bad.

Consume your preferred news, but stay vigilant. There is more than one Laura Ingraham out there who will soon be, or is currently, using their influence to inspire potentially harmful sentiment in others. Be aware of what you're taking in and how that may confirm or distort your own biases. This might seem like common sense — we're all educated and savvy news consumers — but being an informed consumer is more important now than ever.

Jacqui Neber is a senior Writing Seminars major from Northport, N.Y. She is the Opinions Editor.

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OCTOBER 26, 2017



Arts & Entertainment

Hopkins Film Society hosts live reading of *School of Rock* — B3
New York features artist Dale Chihuly's blown glass sculptures — B3
Baker's *The Florida Project* accurately depicts American life — B4



Science & Technology

Women in computing attend Grace Hopper Celebration — B7
Hopkins undergrads present RISE@APL internship research — B7
Scientists find education and exercise increase lifespan — B8



Sports

W. Volleyball's historic winning streak ends at 18 matches — B11
DanLand: Midseason recap & playoff predictions for the NFC — B12
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YOUR WEEKEND OCT. 26 – 29

Events in Baltimore this weekend

Thursday

Late Nite Comedy The Windup Space 9 p.m. - 12 a.m.

Come have a laugh at the Windup Space while watching stand-up, or try out your best jokes at this late-night open mic. The show is free, but a donation is encouraged. 21+ only.

Friday

Greek Food, Wine & Culture Festival Greek Orthodox Cathedral 12 p.m. - 11 a.m.

Experience authentic Greek cuisine and culture at the 45th annual culture fesitval. The event will last the entire weekend, so come through and learn something new. Free.

ZooB000! The Maryland Zoo 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Enjoy all the best parts of Halloween: trick or treating, costume contests and haymazes, in the company of a bunch of amazing animals! Admission included in ticket price.

Saturday

Halloween Lantern Parade and Festival Patterson Park 3:30p.m. - 7 p.m.

Come join the 18th annual lantern parade. Bring your own lights and join in the fun. Or take a picnic blanket and enjoy the artists, musicians and performers. Free.

Federal Hill-0-Ween Bar Crawl Federal Hill 5p.m. - 12 a.m.

Wear your best costume, and make sure you're prepared to have fun during this spooktacular event. Enjoy drinks and food specials, as well as the chance to meet lots of new people. 21+, \$22.

Sunday

Fade to Black Horror Movie and Ghost Party The BIG Theatre 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Enjoy a fully improvised horror performance from the team at Fade to Black. Then take part in improv games themed around the spooky and the supernatural. Tickets \$5 each.

Charm Kitty offers a great new experience

By **DIVA PAREKH**
Copy Editor

I'm from Mumbai, so going home for fall break would probably take me just about as long as fall break itself. I'd probably land just in time to grab a nice lunch at the airport and then be on a 30-hour journey back here right in time for my Monday morning 9 a.m.

So I figured, if I had to spend the weekend here, I might as well not spend it in my empty apartment. For about a month I'd been trying to make plans to go to the cat cafe out in Hampden, but I never followed through until Saturday.

The cat cafe is very punnily named Charm Kitty, and it opened on Sept. 30 this year. It's in Whitehall Mill, which is also where Birroteca is, just in case you needed a landmark. The exact address is 3300 Clipper Mill Road, but keep your eyes peeled as soon as you enter Whitehall Mill: It can be pretty hard to find, because there are no signs leading up to it.

Charm Kitty does take walk-ins, but a reservation is recommended, because they can fill up pretty quickly, especially on weekends. Reservations can be made in one-hour slots going from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends and 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on weekdays. Weekday reservations cost \$10 per hour,

and weekends are \$12.

They also host yoga classes, movie nights and game nights for people interested in doing all these activities in the company of about 10 cats. If you're interested, you could also get a weekend day pass (eight hours for \$20), take your laptop over and try to get some work done if you can resist being distracted by cats rubbing up against your leg.

Charm Kitty also offers tea, coffee, hot chocolate and cookies (skeletal cat-themed for Halloween, naturally) in addition to T-shirts and other merchandise with their logo (an adorable little cat holding a coffee mug). You can either purchase a drink (\$2.50) and a cookie (\$3.00) with your reservation, or you can buy it at the cafe.

I did find Charm Kitty a little pricey, but it was honestly a great hour spent on a Saturday morning. I drank my tea while a cat stared longingly at my cookie the whole time. If you do have the time and resources to adopt a cat,



COURTESY OF DIVA PAREKH

You may need to book yourself a reservation to get time with these in-demand kitties.

it's a great place for it.

You get to interact with the cats in a more relaxed setting and talk to the Charm Kitty staff about them before you make your decision. All the adoptions are through the Baltimore Humane Society, and since Charm Kitty opened less than a month ago, they've had nine adoptions.

While walking in, my friend and I immediately fell in love with the aesthetic of the place. I had never been to a cat cafe before, but the interior was exactly what I had imagined it would look like. There were comfortable chairs and couches everywhere, and the walls were filled with little niches and ledges for cats to curl up in when the humans got annoying.

We saw a lot of, "If it fits, I sits," going on, and even

though the space was filled with fun cat toys, the cats were naturally more interested in the staff doors they weren't allowed to go into. All the cats are very creatively named, especially the ones they encourage you to adopt in pairs. One pair of cat brothers was Lynyrd and Skynyrd, and another was Twilight and New Moon.

The one thing you're not allowed to do is pick up the cats, but the staff is very friendly and will pick up the cats for you so you can pet them as long as they're willing to tolerate you.

Spending an hour at Charm Kitty watching cats be weird and sometimes actually not avoid me definitely put a positive spin on my weekend. The walk down there is beautiful, so I say give it a shot — the cats might actually like you more than you'd expect.

I recommend running the Baltimore half-marathon

By **BOBBY PERETTI**
For The News-Letter

At the time of writing this, I have been varying degrees of hungry and sore for roughly 48 hours.

But I have a good reason. On Saturday, I took my first crack at the Baltimore half-marathon, one of several races that took place that morning during the Baltimore Running Festival, which includes a marathon, a half-marathon, a marathon relay and a 5K.

The first thing that struck me after I arrived at the Inner Harbor for the start of the race was the crush of human beings that had assembled in a usually not-all-that-crowded space. It had become Times Square, only the neon had relocated from billboards to the reflective shirts of the runners.

Tents had been set up for water, bag checks, recovery, gear-hawking and ads for companies that called themselves Sports Science because that sounds a lot better than Pseudoscience. Determining which is closer to the

truth is above my pay grade.

We, myself and the two friends who ran with me, watched the finish of an earlier race that seemed to be the 5K. We checked our bags, took a few last sips of water and Powerade, did a brief warm-up around Fed Hill and set about to enjoy every runner's favorite part of a race: waiting nervously for it to start. I have a background in distance running, but it's been four years since I last went through the rigmarole of fighting through crowds to get to the starting line on time.

Apparently I still find it stressful.

But without too much difficulty, we got in place in a swarm of runners over 8000 strong. And when that mass started to move — very slowly at first before separating out into five waves — it gave off a distinct "about to charge the Persian army" vibe, which felt appropriate on account of the origins of the event.

I queued up the *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly*

theme (which I am proud to say I timed quite well with the actual start of the running), and off we went.

The course was roughly a square. Starting in the harbor, it mostly went east until Patterson Park, where it turned to the north toward Lake Montebello. That was the hard bit: a long, steady uphill for about three miles. Then it wrapped around the lake, went west down 33rd street and turned south down Guilford Ave, where I got to run right past my house, which was kind of fun. From there it cut over to Cathedral Street for a straight shot to the finish back at the harbor.

Race-day adrenaline, the energy of the crowd, and the charming light of a clear fall morning made the first three or so miles pass quickly. I turned off my music shortly after the start to just take in the scene.

The plan was to start it up again when I felt I needed a boost. But for now the scene was well worth taking in. Besides the simple strangeness of running in the middle of a street in a downtown urban center, cool in its own right, the atmosphere of the run was really wonderful. There seemed to me to be an unspoken camaraderie, laced with perhaps a bit of competition, among the runners which was exciting.

But the thing I hadn't budgeted for, which was perhaps the thing that struck me the most about the entire experience, was the amount of support from the spectators. In nearly ev-

ery neighborhood we ran through, there were people up and down the streets holding signs, shouting out encouragement and offering cups of water or Gatorade or beer to tired runners. A man in East Baltimore repeated through a microphone, "Never give up, never give in." Someone at the lake held up a picture of the great Christopher Walken captioned, "No time for Walkin'."

Groups of children lined up on the curb to high-five those who passed near them. It was great. People are so nice sometimes.

I started my music back up at the halfway point, and around mile eleven I returned to *The Good, the Bad and the Ugly* for my planned closing songs, not the theme this time but the songs from the film's climax and final duel.

The last hill, near Biddle Street, gave me fits, but I was able to finish with the time I had hoped for. I wobbled to the bag check, called my mom, drank down all the fresh water I could get my hands on and reassembled with my friends, both those I had run with and those who came in support.

We then battled through horrific traffic, ate many pizzas and tried our darndest to avoid standing.

I had a great, if exhausting, time and found that the race isn't nearly as scary as it might seem. For anyone from longtime runners looking for a challenge to curious parties interested in trying something new, I can recommend it.



ELVERT BARNES/CC-BY-SA 2.0

The half-marathon starts in the Inner Harbor and covers most of the city.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Film Society stages lively *School of Rock* reading



VAGUEONTHEHOW/CC BY 2.0
Musician and actor Jack Black starred in the film version of *School of Rock*.

By COLE DOUGLASS
For *The News-Letter*

School of Rock is not a movie about sitting down. If you haven't seen it, it's a comedy about a man who teaches a group of elementary school students how to play rock and roll music while pretending to be their substitute teacher.

Jack Black played the protagonist, which should tell you everything that you need to know about the film. It is such an energetic film that two years ago, someone looked at it, wondered why they couldn't make it even more high energy and made it into a Tony Award-nominated musical.

So naturally when I heard that there was going to be a live reading of the film, hosted by the Hopkins Film Society at 2640 Space, I was a little confused. It didn't seem like the kind of story that should be told by a group of

actors sitting at a desk and reading from the script.

However, Gillian Waldo, one of the co-directors of the Film Society executive board, did not have the same fears.

"We find that picking a dialogue-heavy, comedic film works best," Waldo said in an email to *The News-Letter*. "An ideal film also needs to have an ensemble cast so that we can cast more people. *School of Rock* is packed with gags and jokes and features a bunch of dynamic characters."

Wouldn't you know it, she was right. The live reading was incredibly entertaining, and the cast, comprised of local Baltimore performers chosen by the Film Society, did an excellent job of conveying the script's comedy and energy, despite being largely confined to their chairs.

A good portion of the praise goes to Ed Schrader

— of the famed Baltimore band Ed Schrader's Music Beat — who played Dewey Finn, the film's protagonist.

Any character played by Jack Black is going to be loud and boisterous, and Schrader was more than willing to match that expectation.

He belloped, he shouted, he even sang every once in awhile, occasionally accompanied by actress Joy Postell. As the main character, he set the tone for the rest of the cast, and he did so admirably.

The other actors also made sure that the audience was consistently laughing, usually by making sure to go the extra mile. Kevin Sherry, for instance, would perform little costume changes every time he swapped characters, mussing up his hair or sliding on a button-up shirt as the plot demanded.

After the characters started forming their band, the actors would play clips of rock music to go along with the story. Shortly thereafter, multitasking artist LOVE the Poet pulled out a guitar and pretended to strum along to the tune.

Meanwhile, immediately to her right, Nicky Smith pretended to play the drums using only a plastic fork and knife.

The rest of the cast — Delvin Rice, Joy Postell, Jenne Matthews, Tommy Waldo and Julia Gunnison — were equally committed to ensur-

ing that the audience was consistently entertained.

Even the reading's weakest moment was salvaged thanks to the actors' strengths. The climactic scene of the movie is the "Battle of the Bands," where the *School of Rock* band performs for the first time, the culmination of all of their efforts.

Unfortunately that doesn't really translate well to the live reading format, as the scene was reduced to a few lines read by the narrator. Still, Schrader made up for the lull by launching into a rock song, ensuring that the reading's ending hit all of the notes that the original had.

In the end, all of my fears about the *School of Rock* reading were swept aside. The cast's commitment to their roles, as well as the movie's well-written script, ensured that the audience would enjoy the production.

When asked about the decision to host the live reading, Waldo wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*, "It's kind of become a tradition, and we think it's a good example of more experimental programming that still promotes film culture in Baltimore."

Hopefully the live reading's success will ensure the continuation of the tradition and bring even more interesting theater and film projects to campus.

How I learned to love EDM as a way to escape



GORVELL/CC BY-SA 4.0T
Norwegian DJ Kygo performed at the Rio Olympics closing ceremony.

By NIKITA SHTARKMAN
For *The News-Letter*

People generally have very specific and arbitrary tastes; I am one such person. I think that J. Cole makes simple, boring music, but you can find me on any given day listening to Famous Dex and Lil Xan. I say that I hate melted cheese, yet adore pizza. I enjoy funk and poppy dance music, but don't give EDM a chance.

I was the guy who stood quietly in a corner at parties when EDM music came on, mumbling about how this wasn't good music and waiting patiently for whoever was on the aux to somehow miraculously transition from some aggressive synth-laden remix of "Mr. Brightside," to a Future or Young Thug song (it never happens).

My perspective on EDM changed suddenly and quickly. This is a big statement, and one that should be followed up with some long and disjointed story of a crazy, drug-laden adventure through Ultra or Tomorrowland, where I progressively lose my clothes and become more at one with myself and the universe.

Unfortunately that's not what happened. I, in a very Hopkins fashion, was awakened to the power of EDM in the solitude of my own room while hunkered down studying for two midterms and struggling to stay awake.

This was a week in which I had hours of work and time enough to do half of it. It was a week in which sleep takes a backseat to other responsibilities. I tried everything I could to keep myself awake and alert.

Energy drinks, advertised as some miracle drug, don't do much other than make me feel anxious and wiry.

Drinking tons of water kind of worked, but I ended up spending more time in the bathroom than doing my work. Splashing my eyes with cold water was in vain.

The best remedy was listening to Young Jeezy's phenomenal debut studio album, *Let's Get It: Thug*

Motivation 101, a musical masterpiece that will get you motivated enough to do anything from selling pounds of cocaine to finishing that calculus problem set you've been procrastinating on. But that was only an hour-long solution, and I soon ran out of ideas.

I don't know how it happened. Somehow through Youtube's search algorithm, I ended up listening to "Coming Over," Dillon Francis and Kygo's collaborative anthem — a sweet love song that is supported by various synth stabs and a pounding 4/4 kick.

I wouldn't say it's a great song, it's a very basic melodic track. But for some reason the EDM energy made me forget my harsh tiredness.

Something about that relentless kick worked like an amphetamine. Usually I would back out from this part of Youtube and go back to listening to some chopped and screwed Lil Pump remix, but some part of me wanted to try steering into the skid. So I did.

Over that week I went from the surface level, million-view, poppy EDM songs to the long, two-hour EDM mixes that fly through styles at a mile a minute.

Across several late nights and early mornings, my room would rattle at 128 bpm, pounding with 4/4 rhythm and excessively loud synth melodies, bothering both my roommates and the family of roaches that lives somewhere hidden in our room. Throughout that week, I immersed myself in a new genre.

I want to preface what I'm about to say with a disclaimer: I am speaking as someone with literally zero experience with EDM before last week. This isn't as much a statement on the music genre as much as it is a description of my first impression of it.

To those who don't know, I will describe the general format of an EDM song. EDM is music that has a very specific rhythm and tempo: usually 128 bpm with a 4/4 drum rhythm.

The undercurrent of al
SEE EDM, PAGE B4

Exhibit of Chihuly's glass art impresses audiences

By ANNE HOLLMULLER
Senior Staff Writer

This week marks the final week of *CHIHULY*, an exhibition of artworks by well-known glass artist Dale Chihuly at the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) in his first garden exhibition in New York City in over a decade.

The exhibition includes 20 installations interspersed throughout the conservatory and gardens, with a series of evening events called *CHIHULY* Nights.

During these evening events, the exhibition was illuminated, live musicians performed throughout the gardens and a fresco food was offered by food trucks.

Dale Chihuly is an American glass sculptor and artist, best known for his large-scale sculptures in blown glass. Glass forms are the primary medium for his work, allowing him to manipulate the luminous and translucent qualities of glass as it in-

teracts with light.

Known for his site-specific installations in public spaces as well as exhibitions presented at gardens and museums across the world, Chihuly works with a studio of glass blowers and directs the creation and manufacturing of his monumental works.

The works included in *CHIHULY* were created specifically for the NYBG and were conceived as a site-specific installation, which took advantage of the natural environment of the Garden.

Chihuly's brightly colored sculptures were intermingled with the verdant surroundings of the NYBG and its wide-ranging collection. At night, with the help of carefully placed spotlights, visitors were able to revisit these translucent, sometimes monumental works and explore a new interaction between light and color.

The *CHIHULY* Nights programming series began in the spring with the

opening of the exhibit, offering an opportunity to view the sculptures at night, listen to live music and partake in various food and drink offerings. The botanical garden engaged a rotating line-up of musicians and performing artists of different genres, including jazz, classical guitar, Latin soul and steel drum.

On Oct. 20, musicians Funkrust Brass Band, Christos Rafalides and Yael Acher (also known as "KAT" Modiano) performed across the garden, with Rafalides and his keyboard positioned near one of the largest of Chihuly's sculptures, the massive *Scarlet and Yellow Icicle Tower*.

Several of the sculptures are contained within the vast space of the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, a Victorian glasshouse with a towering central cupola.

The graceful forms of the vibrantly colored sculptures, lit by spotlights, echo the sloping curves and angles of the flowers and plants that surround them underneath the dome of the conservatory.

Viewing the sculptures in the evening light allowed them to take on a dramatic and romantic form, dazzlingly colorful

glass gleaming in the midst of the greenery.

Outside of the entrance to the greenhouse is *Sol del Citron*, a large orb of green and yellow glass shapes and forms illuminated by spotlights. Many visitors gathered around this first sculpture to capture their first images of the night, pause for a drink at the nearby beverage cart or discuss the exhibition amongst themselves.

One particularly interesting work was *Red Reeds on Logs*, which features several dozen red reeds pierced through large logs standing upright in the midst of a circular pool.

Another one of the works included is a recreation of his noted 1975 *Artpark* installation, which is revived in the form of three new works in the Native Plant Garden and the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory Courtyard's Tropical Pool, though it was somewhat difficult to appreciate the reflective qualities of the sculptures in the relative darkness of the Native Plant Garden.

I happened to miss one work, a diaphanous blue sculpture entitled *Sapphire Star*, that was hidden in a more secluded area of the gardens.

Within the LuEsther T. Mertz Library, an exhibition of early works by Chihuly is on display, as well as some of his drawings and sketches.

Because Chihuly directs a studio of skilled glassblowers, drawing on paper is a means of sharing his ideas with the members

SEE CHIHULY, PAGE B5



STEVE JURVETSON/CC BY 2.0

Artist Dale Chihuly is well known for his work in the glass medium and is featured at the NYBG.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Florida Project is Americana at its best

Rap-loving writer finds new motivation in EDM



Iconic actor Willem Dafoe plays Bobby in Sean Baker's newest film, *The Florida Project*. SASHA KARGALTSEV/CC BY 2.0

By **LUIS CURIEL**
For *The News-Letter*

It's easy to think that there aren't any films being produced that capture the mundane aspects of everyday American life. However that's not entirely true; we do get these films, but they are often independent.

Their budget isn't very large, they don't get marketed as much as larger studio films and they're often difficult to find at large cineplexes. Luckily, here in the Baltimore we are fortunate to have the Charles Theatre just 10 minutes from campus.

Small and home to many 65-year-old couples, the Charles Theatre often showcases films that you may not have heard of and, often in the winter, Oscar-nominated films.

During the film festival season, which primarily runs from May through September, the hype surrounding these independent films peaks. One of these is Sean Baker's sixth feature film *The Florida Project* starring Willem Dafoe, Brooklynn Prince and Bria Vinaite.

The Florida Project comes off the heels of Baker's film *Tangerine*, which follows a transgender sex worker, who found out that her pimp/boyfriend cheated on her while she was in jail.

Tangerine was shot entirely on an iPhone 5s (something you wouldn't be able to do on an Android) and is a joy to watch. It's on Netflix and only 85 minutes long, so I recommend it.

With that in mind — as well as the reception *The Florida Project* received out of Cannes — it was safe to say that I was immensely excited to watch *The Florida Project*, and boy did it not disappoint.

The Florida Project follows the daily life of six-year-old Moonee (Prince) and her mother Halley (Vinaite) in Kissimmee, Fla. Bobby (Dafoe) is the big-hearted manager of the motel in which Moonee and Halley live.

The main characters are a part of the extended-stay motel community in an area located right outside Disney World, an area favored by tourists. This is evident throughout the film and plays a subtle role in showing contrasting lifestyles.

Baker uses long takes to fully display the beautiful colors that can be found in the town, in what can only be described as a Wes An-

this where we begin to realize how truly heart-breaking this entire film is.

Among other things, we see Halley attempting to sell perfume outside a country club to afford her daily rent, often with Moonee in tow. Of course to

Moonee this isn't anything tragic, it's just normal.

Therefore when we reach the emotional climax of the film, you can't do anything but wish for Moonee to be happy. This emotion is elevated by performances that are breathtaking, considering the inexperience of both actresses. It's refreshing and feels all the more authentic, as if this is a documentary and not a fictional film.

That's the beauty of *The Florida Project* and other

films as of late (*Hell or High Water* comes to mind); they perfectly capture the anxieties of forgotten communities. There are people that live this type of life and suffer through it; it's a brutal reality that we tend to forget exists.

Willem Dafoe's character Bobby is particularly fantastic. You feel for him, and his paternalistic behavior is a wonderful addition to a film in which everyone seems to lack any sort of supervision.

The Florida Project is a magnificent addition to a new genre of films that cover the "Real American" life. Through the point of view of someone innocent (Moonee) we fail to see the anxieties that are around us.

It's a tragic perspective on life that is augmented by our own memories as children and by the memories that the people we love have as well. After all, we don't all come from the same background, and, for all we know, this could be someone's actual story.

So please go watch this film, and support small films in general because we need to bring more awareness to these communities, to these children. It's the least we can do.



Swedish DJ Avicii has gained international fame with songs like "Levels." AVICII AB/CC BY-SA 4.0

FROM EDM, B3

most all EDM is the classic boom-chick-clap drum pattern. Most EDM songs start quietly, with some lead melody or motive that slowly builds in intensity.

With each successive bar, another element is added or a recurring melody is reinforced; slowly the track builds in energy. Risers, which are long, drawn out sounds that rise in frequency over time, pile atop one another until they reach this ear-crushing peak.

Then, in an instant, the producer/DJ decides to resolve all of the tension — this is the infamous "bass drop." The melodies compete and the risers release all the built up pressure. It is bliss encapsulated in one musical moment.

As far as I can tell, this is true for most EDM tracks. The danceability comes from the simple 4/4 rhythm that is emphasized; there is no complicated syncopation, just jump every quarter note.

Here is where many people start to criticize EDM: "It all sounds the same," is a common detractor. This is true to some extent. The "EDM formula" is strict and includes a lot of songs, but the creativity comes through in the melody and sound arrangement.

I think after listening to a couple hours of EDM nonstop, I started to realize the uniqueness and goal of this otherwise very alien sounding music. It is bottled energy, diffused into a soundwave and printed on disks. The whole EDM motif builds tension until it is unbearable, then lets it explode.

Whereas hip-hop and rock have an aggressive and independent bend, pop a romantic motif, country a strong patriotic character and blues and soul are tinged with sadness, EDM is pure, unabashed, almost otherworldly, energy and joy.

Watch some EDM music videos, they'll explain the music better than I can. Videos usually involve the DJ or some stand-in character (usually a brown-haired white dude) doing something (it does not matter at all what he's doing) and crowds of euphoric revellers.

Everyone has a glazed, flat look in their eyes — somewhere on the scale between seductive and airheaded. Everyone is beautiful. The backdrop is either a dark club or some gorgeous beach. The colors are all super-saturated and everything moves like honey. It is an almost

overwhelming portrayal of idyllic life.

One of the tropes of EDM videos is to take a very un-subtle approach in showing daily life as this boring, horrible and dreadful existence. People are disgustingly average, with pale skin and bug eyes, and the settings are grey and tan. Cubicles are nothing more than cells. Then, as the EDM song drops into the scene, life becomes colorful and joyful. (Look at Nicky Romero and Avicii's "I Could Be The One" and Avicii's "Levels" as examples.)

In essence, that is what EDM tries to do. EDM has always been associated with drug use, but that's because, in a way, it is a drug. The music generates a strong dopamine release through powerful major chords and hooks that are completely meaningless but have some joyous undercurrent and resolution of tension.

I think that one of the central arguments against EDM is that it is hedonistic and empty. For a lot of the music, I think that it is true, but I don't think that this is necessarily a bad thing.

I recommend that if you're at all interested in the genre, even as a spectator, you go on Youtube and search up Ultra or Tomorrowland DJ sets. The videos show what looks like a cult ceremony — a chosen few stand atop a glowing platform with fires, lights and images flashing above their heads. In front of them stands a crowd of thousands completely controlled by the blasting music.

The DJs will yell commands (sit down, stand up, clap your hands, etc.) and everyone does as they are told. It would be eerie and cultish if there weren't this overwhelming joy in the building. Everyone is dressed up in bright colors and holding signs that share loving, happy messages.

Whenever the camera pans on anyone, they either flash a peace sign or make a heart with their hands. It seems like, in those few hours, the people in the crowd find that idyllic moment that EDM promises; you can tell by the happiness that floods through their eyes.

EDM has one true purpose: to make people dance.

It is made so that we forget ourselves, our responsibilities or jobs for a couple minutes. The DJ is the conduit from my Calculus and Prob-Stat covered desk at two in the morning to the craziness of the beaches of Ibiza or Miami.

Plastic fashion reflects modern fears

By **TANYA WONGVIBULSIN**
For *The News-Letter*

We live in a plastic world. Many of us are surrounded by plastic wherever we go. We wake up and use plastic toothbrushes, buy food in plastic containers and shower with soap contained in plastic bottles.

In a more theoretical sense, our relationship with the internet, a platform in which we can create a virtual self and experience virtual realities, is also making our world more "plastic."

The alarmingly large dependence we have on the internet is making our real world and the artificial world feel more intertwined than ever before, perhaps pushing us to reevaluate our everyday "reality."

The increasing presence of the plastic world in our lives as well as its significance and impact have recently become a dialogue in the fashion world. Fashion designers are incorporating plastic into their designs, a trend that we have seen in the Autumn/Winter (A/W) 2017 Ready-to-Wear (RTW) collections and the more recent Spring/Summer (S/S) 2018

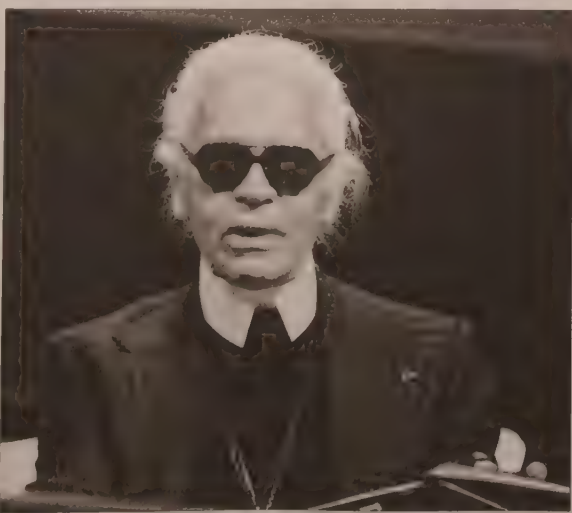
RTW collections.

During the latest three-city fashion week marathon that took place from late September to early October, plastic was all over the runway. Whether it was a cape and biker hybrid jacket from Valentino, thigh high boots from Chanel or a skirt from Toga, many designers

used plastic material to construct their pieces. *Vogue Runway* saw the unconventional use of plastic in Chanel's S/S 2018 collection as a sign of an optimistic future.

Karl Lagerfeld was innovating fashion. His use of plastic showed that the fashion world has come far from the time when designers had access to only a limited range of fabrics and materials.

On the other hand, Miuccia Prada's use of plastic in her Miu Miu A/W 2017 collection was a way for her to dress women in the face of an uncertain future.



German artist Karl Lagerfeld is creative director of the fashion house Chanel. OFFICIAL LE WEB PHOTOS/CC BY 2.0

In her interview with *Vogue Runway*, she said, "It's about the madness of glamour, in front of an uncertain future, and I am getting really interested in so many kinds of beauty."

Kinza Shenn, a writer for *i-D Magazine*, seems to agree with Miuccia Prada. In her article, "politics, plastic and depth: an autumn/winter 17 trend report," she saw the use of plastic as a way of confronting the uncertainties of future world, a way people are "protecting" and "hybridizing" their

body by creating a "second skin" with plastic.

Regardless of the varying messages we see behind the use of plastic in the different runway collections, there seems to be a common thread of looking to the future.

Some are optimistic and think that the current technological innovations are signs of greatness still to come. Others, however, seem to be more pessimistic, using plastic to guard the body from the impending uncertainties.

With the current political climate, the debate around global warming and the increasing dependence we have on technology, our future seems to be further out of reach. A common fear and uncertainty surrounding the years ahead is making the future progressively more bleak.

That these fears are being reflected in fashion suggests that it is time that we start reevaluating our way of life, so that we can reach a place where we feel genuinely optimistic about what's around the corner.

We live in a plastic world. Many of us are surrounded by plastic wherever we go.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Netflix continues its winning streak with *Mindhunter* Chihuly returns to New York for exhibit



ELEN NIVRAE/CC BY 2.0

Director David Fincher is one of the producers of *Mindhunter* and also directed four of this season's episodes.

By **WILL KIRSCH**

Arts & Entertainment Editor

As someone who would identify as far-left, anti-authoritarian and perhaps even anti-state, the FBI is, for the most part, representative of everything wrong with government.

However, I would be hard pressed to argue that the Bureau is entirely evil; catching serial killers, for example, seems to be a fairly noble pursuit.

Such is the topic of Netflix's new series *Mindhunter*, which is about the FBI's Behavioral Sciences Unit (now broken up into several different programs, including the Behavioral Analysis Unit) that began formulating a scientific method for classifying criminals during the 1970s.

The show focuses particularly on the study of serial killers, featuring famed human-nightmares Ed Kemper and Jerry Brudos.

Two federal agents, Bill

Tench and Holden Ford — one a grizzled veteran, the other a fresh-faced wunderkind — embark on a mission to redefine criminality, looking past the simple facts of crime and into the minds of the perpetrators.

This, of course, involves studying lots of incredibly gruesome crimes, which the show illustrates in lurid detail.

Mindhunter taps into a strange aspect of the American social psyche that draws "normal" people to serial killers.

Serial killers are, it would seem, the closest reality can get to horror movie villains. Indeed, most of cinema's most iconic murderers are loosely based on or inspired by real serial killers.

So what is it that we find so interesting about these people who are so terrifying?

Is it the humanness of their evil? Their apparent normality? The almost incomprehensible brutality of

their crimes?

Who knows, but whatever it is, *Mindhunter* does an amazing job of capitalizing on that appeal.

The show, which is set in the late 1970s, is produced in part by director David Fincher. Fincher also directed four of the 10 episodes in season one, the only season released so far.

Fincher has credentials in the genre; he directed the 2007 film *Zodiac* (the setting of which is contemporary to *Mindhunter*), arguably one of the greatest serial-killer thrillers and a wonderful Ted Cruz bio-pic.

The influences of the film on *Mindhunter* are apparent; tension is cultivated in blandly lit and foreboding settings, and the horror is far more psychological than visceral.

Fincher and show creator Joe Penhall are more interested in developing the mysterious reasoning of the murderous mind than they are in showing

the viewer any sort of violence; the fear is almost entirely cerebral.

Tench and Ford, played by Holt McCallany and Jonathan Groff, are the fictional analogues of FBI agents John Douglas and Robert Ressler.

They work alongside psychologist Dr. Wendy Carr, who is based on Ann Burgess, a current Boston College professor described by *Bustle* as a "pioneer in the field of forensic nursing." Carr is played by Anna Torv.

Carr, Tench and Ford are all compelling characters. Torv is particularly strong as Carr, who redefines how the FBI thinks about criminals, but the real stars of the show are its villains.

Mindhunter centers its plot largely around the three heroes, but critical to the story are the murderers they interview.

In the first season, there are four: Ed Kemper, Monte Ralph Rissell, Richard Speck and Jerry Brudos. Of the four, Ed Kemper is uniquely terrifying.

Kemper, played by Cameron Britton, was known in the 1960s and 70s as "The Co-Ed Killer." In total he was responsible for 10 murders, which included his mother and grandparents as victims.

Kemper was a physically imposing person, standing nearly seven feet and weighing in at over 200 pounds. Britton is a frighteningly close physical match to the real-life serial killer.

Britton's Kemper is dry-witted and intelligent; he

might even be likable. Indeed, Ford is drawn to the seemingly affable man-child, right up until he starts to describe his heinous crimes with nothing like remorse.

It's hard to call Kemper the best character in the show, but he is by far the best-acted. Kemper can't possibly be a good character because he isn't one; he's a real person, who committed real murders, which makes Britton's rendition of him all the more frightening.

In a way, enjoying *Mindhunter* makes me feel kind of dirty, because really, the show's premise is contingent on how fucked up its subjects are.

On the other hand, it is a genuinely interesting topic. This is not the average shoot-em-up crime drama — during the entire first season, there is only one on-screen death — yet *Mindhunter* is incredibly exciting.

Each moment is thick with the drama inherent to the plot and the viewer is always conscious of the stakes.

According to Uproxx, the show has already been renewed for a second season, which will be centered around the Atlanta Child Murders of 1979-1981.

There is also talk that a mysterious and foreboding character, a nameless ADT security man, could feature in future seasons.

Not to give any spoilers, but this nameless character, who is no more than a minor character in the first season, will likely turn out to be one of the series' most frightening subjects.

Chihuly returns to New York for exhibit

CHIHULY, FROM B3

of his team. A 1977 work, *Fire Orange Baskets*, features forms developed during the period in which he was inspired by Northwest Native American baskets. Also on display are two acrylic paintings, including *Palazzo Ducale Tower*, from the *Chihuly Over Venice* exhibition of 1996.

Chihuly previously collaborated with the New York Botanical Garden for a 2006 exhibition entitled *Chihuly at the New York Botanical Garden*, his first major exhibition in the New York City area. Record audiences were attracted to the botanical garden.

The largest permanent exhibit of Chihuly's works can be found at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art. There is also a *Chihuly Garden and Glass* exhibit at the Seattle Center, opened in May of 2012, which includes a 100-foot long sculpture, one of Chihuly's largest works.

Tickets were in high demand for the *CHIHULY* Nights, with a line of people waiting to enter the greenhouse and many visitors pausing to take photographs both in the greenhouse and across the grounds. Visitors took advantage of their final opportunity to see this exposition; *CHIHULY* closes on Oct. 29, 2017.

The Color Purple retains its timelessness in 2017

By **KELSEY KO**

Managing Editor

I have pretty terrible luck. So when I was informed by the Office of Multicultural Affairs that I had won \$15 tickets to see *The Color Purple* at the Hippodrome Theater — with a Q&A session with the cast afterwards — needless to say, I was pretty stoked at my good fortune.

On Thursday night I braved my fever and illness and sat in my nosebleed balcony seats in the Hippodrome to watch Celie's world unfold before me.

The Color Purple, based on Alice Walker's acclaimed 1982 novel of the same name, is a musical that follows the stories of African American women in 1930s Georgia.

In particular, the audience learns about the life and struggles of a poor,

young black girl named Celie (Adrianna Hicks).

We are introduced to her and her sister Nettie (N'Jameh Camara) when they are young and innocent.

The story starts to unfold when Celie is married off to a much older, abusive man who goes by the name of Mister (Gavin Gregory).

The best part about *The Color Purple* was witnessing the transformation that each character goes through on stage.

Celie goes from being a battered housewife who is scared to fight back, to walking away from her abusive marriage and starting a business.

We watch Sofia (Carrie Compere), a woman who has been fighting against abuse throughout her whole life, teach Celie how to say "hell no" to men who try to knock her down.

There's something awe-inspiring and powerful about watching a story that is specifically about women of color and the struggles that they face unfold.

We also see women of color loving and empowering other women of color as Celie navigates through her confusing, romantic feelings toward Shug Avery (Carla R. Stewart) and as Shug helps Celie leave her abusive marriage. I'm thankful that a musical that so unabashedly tackles these subjects exists.

There's also something to be said about Celie forgiving Mister, her abuser, at the end of her transformation.

Even Mister is treated as a three-dimensional character, and the musical explores how he became an abuser because of his own terrible childhood and violent father.

Kudos to *The Color Purple* for doing all it can to understand the humanity in each of its characters and examine the "why" of each character's behavior.

In the context of our current political climate, *The Color Purple*'s storyline feels timely.

In all honesty, it was incredibly difficult to watch the female characters endure sexual harassment and domestic violence on stage.

Especially considering all that has been going on with Harvey Weinstein and the women who have spoken up against him in

the news along with the #MeToo movement on social media, seeing the women of *The Color Purple* stand up against men felt like a mimicry of reality.

In this way, there's a certain timelessness and universality to this musical, which takes place in the 1930s and debuted on Broadway in 2005 but contains themes that remain so relevant in 2017.

Maybe its relatability to modern audiences is a testament to how work must still be done.

During the Q&A session, Carrie Compere (who played Sofia) brought up how people often fear black men because of how they are portrayed in the media.

However, when audiences watch black actors come together to create something beautiful onstage, it has the power to change people's perceptions of people of color.

I 100 percent believe that I witnessed something magical on that stage on Thursday night.

When Adrianna Hicks sang Celie's show-stopping number "I'm Here" in Act II, I looked over at my friend and her face was wet with tears.

There's something about the right musical that has the power to bridge across divides and differences and touch the heart.

For those sparkling two hours in the Hippodrome, we were all lost in the world of *The Color Purple*.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

A rendition of *The Color Purple* came to The Hippodrome this October.

Hallow's Eve Playlist

1) "That Old Black Magic" by Louis Prima and Keely Smith

2) "Halloween" by the Dead Kennedys

3) "Somebody's Watching Me" by Rockwell

4) "I Put a Spell On You" by Nina Simone

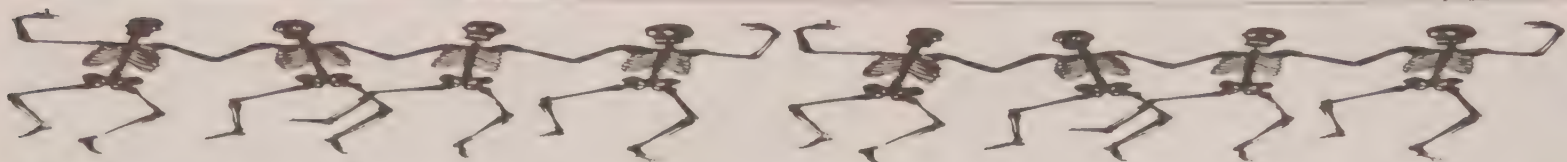
5) "Thriller" by Michael Jackson

6) "Baltimore Strangler" by Pig Destroyer

7) "Dragula" by Rob Zombie

8) "Superstition" by Stevie Wonder

CARTOONS, ETC.



Why are there fences around graveyards?



By: GISELLE RUIZ



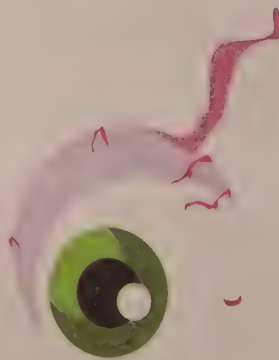
Because people are dying to get in!



When your your friend is sheetfaced...



By: GISELLE RUIZ



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Juniors attend conference for women in tech



COURTESY OF REENA SARKAR
Juniors Reena Sarkar and Adriana Donis attended the Grace Hopper Celebration in Florida.

By **EVERY GULINO**
For *The News-Letter*

In early October, thousands gathered in Orlando, Fla. to celebrate the Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing, the world's largest gathering of women in computer science. This past year the conference had over 18,000 attendees from multiple countries. Attendance for the conference has continued to grow every year as more people learn about it

and want to attend. The Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing is designed to inspire women by showing them that not only can they succeed in this field, but also that organizations and companies actually are looking to hire them. The conference gives women an opportunity to be surrounded by those similar to them, showing them that they are not alone in this world of science and technology.

Google Cloud's Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning. In addition to speakers, the event included career fairs, company interviews, networking lounges, free tech and free food, as well as the latest and greatest technology this country has to offer. Two Hopkins students, juniors Reena Sarkar and Adriana Donis, attended the event this year. Both women are computer science majors and said that the event was an amazing experience. According to the two women, highlights of the event included a Snapchat party, amazing "swag" at every booth, a private trip to Epcot's France Pavilion to watch the fireworks and most importantly, numerous career and internship

opportunities through the career fairs. Donis said that her favorite part of the event was the keynote speakers. "To actually see Melinda Gates was so cool," Donis said. "It gave me goosebumps to see her actually in front of me." One of the most helpful parts of this event, according to both Sarkar and Donis, were the amazing networking events which helped the girls generate professional connections and internships. One interesting feature of the Grace Hopper event is that participants can connect with companies before the conference by submitting your resume beforehand.

This feature can help young women with finding their first internship, a job after graduation or simply making a great connection. According to Donis, the networking process was an exciting experience where the companies were really thrilled to meet women with a devoted interest to their field. Donis said that there was not so much focus on classes or GPAs but rather on each woman's passion and excitement for the field. The companies set up elaborate stands and lounges simply to talk with these young engineers. They also gave away free emoji backpacks

SEE HOPPER, PAGE B9

Students participate in RISE physics internship

By **JAEMIE BENNETT**
For *The News-Letter*

Hopkins, one of the oldest research universities in the U.S., offers students a range of different research opportunities. Recently, 33 Hopkins students t the program Research Internships in Science and Engineering at the Applied Physics Laboratory or RISE@APL. The Applied Physics Laboratory (APL), a division of the University, was founded in 1942. Today the APL houses 6,000 scientists that work with the government on national security research projects like weapons development and to explore the frontiers of space, while also maintaining independent research and development projects. Jerry Krill, the assistant director for science and technology and the chief technology officer at the APL, elaborated on the scope of the projects tackled by the APL.

"We don't just do re-

search; we do large scale engineering, and we will take something that's theoretical or an idea, and we're not satisfied until we've prototyped it and made it work," Krill said. He also explained that RISE@APL is a fairly new program, born from the merging of previous APL internship programs. The APL provides summer internships for nearly 300 students from around 100 universities, but RISE@APL is a special program designed specifically for Hopkins students. "The APL looks across the nation for talented people to hire," Krill said. "But Hopkins is special. We're part of the family, and Hopkins students are really amazing." Over summer, RISE@APL interns were given the opportunity to work closely with an APL researcher. As mentors, their main goal is to help the students learn and to give them guidance, but Kara Shipley, a RISE@APL mentor, explains that it's much more

"One thing about APL is that we don't just do research; we do large scale engineering."

— JERRY KRILL, CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER, APL

SEE APL, PAGE B9

Is social behavior in mice an innate characteristic?

By **ELAINE CHIAO**
Science & Technology Editor

Animals are commonly believed to possess innate social behaviors. A one-day-old baby chick will instinctively search for its mother and follow closely by her side. Similarly, a peacock seems to naturally know how to gracefully fan its colorful tail to attract a potential mate. For many years scientists believed that animals picked up many of these behaviors without going through any learning process. However, a recent study conducted by a group of Caltech neuroscientists might offer a slight twist to how we understand the animal world. This research is being led by David Anderson, a Seymour Benzer professor

of biology and the director of the Tianqiao and Chrissy Chen Institute for Neuroscience at Caltech. Anderson's team experimented on mice whose brains have gone through a thorough process of genetic engineering. Specifically, the mice's ventromedial hypothalamus (VMH) was changed so that it would glow green if activated. The VMH is typically associated with the regulation of aggression and sexual desires. In order to observe the glow, the team temporarily implanted an extremely thin glass lens into the mice's hypothalamus. The hypothalamus is an essential area in the brain that maintains and directly governs homeostasis. The lens then serves as a microscope that snaps pictures of the

SEE MICE, PAGE B9

Researchers warn moms not to eat their placentas

By **ANNA CHEN**
For *The News-Letter*

Among the many interesting health fads to surface or resurface in the 21st century, women eating their own placentas has been regarded as one of the most bizarre. Proponents of placentaeating vehemently claim it has the ability to reduce the effects of postpartum pain and depression, as well as improve energy levels. However, a new review by doctors and researchers at Weill Cornell Medicine, a medical school at Cornell University, and published in the *American Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology* concludes that human placentophagy (ingestion of placenta) can actually do more harm than good.

The placenta is an organ formed in a pregnant woman's uterus upon conception. It connects the mother to the fetus and serves as the fetus' source of nutrition as well as its respiratory and gastrointestinal system. Placentophagy is also common practice among female animals postpartum. It has been shown to increase the threshold of pain in nursing dogs and mice and promote healthy interaction between the mother and her newborns. Human placentophagy, specifically, has been practiced by several cultures throughout history but modern medicine views it as an archaic practice. Recently modern hu-

man placentophagy gained some popularity in the United States when American actress January Jones claimed that eating her own placenta is the reason she was able to get back on set for the TV series *Mad Men* just six weeks after giving birth.

"It's something I was very hesitant about, but we're the only mammals who don't ingest our own placentas," Jones said in an interview with *People Magazine*. "It's not witch-crafty or anything! I suggest it to all moms!" Kim Kardashian West has also sent her placenta to one of the companies that recently sprung up with the influx of placenta-eaters. These companies charge hundreds to make customized pills out of a mother's placenta. West tweeted about her experience eating placenta as a way to encourage people to download her new app for more information on the trend. Movie stars and celebrities have been promoting placentophagy through their influential social media accounts — but what do doctors and policy-makers say?



PUBLIC DOMAIN
Placentophagy is a increasingly prevalent practice that might bring forth adverse health effects.

It turns out that most of them are unsure about the real health impacts of placentophagy. There have been some studies on placentaeating, but they found no solid evidence that it helps with postpartum healing. The positive effects of placentophagy discovered in dogs and mice were not found to be the case with humans. All of the studies that did report benefits of human placentophagy relied on subjective methods open to the placebo effect and survey bias. And yet there has not been any reported cases of placentophagy causing problems. That is, until this past June, when a woman in Oregon transferred a dangerous disease to her newborn from taking placenta pills. Days after the baby was born, it suddenly began having breathing problems and

was found to be infected with group B *Streptococcus agalactiae* (GBS) bacteria. GBS was then detected in the placenta pills the mother had been taking. Consuming the pills had increased the bacteria in the mother's body, thus making it much more likely for her to pass the disease on to her baby. Other published risks include blood clotting issues due to high estrogen levels and possible accumulation of environmental toxins. Scientific analysis of its contents have shown that placenta does contain various vitamins, minerals and other nutrients but not any that cannot be obtained through a healthy diet devoid of placenta. So despite all the positive press from social media stars and the like, from a scientific perspective, placentophagy may not be such a good idea after all.



PUBLIC DOMAIN
Mice develop sexual and aggressive tendencies through social interactions.

Studying and exercise affect human lifespan

By RACHEL HUANG
For The News-Letter

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to control how long you live?

Worldwide, the average life expectancy is 68.3 years for males and 72.6 years for females. The United States has the 53rd highest average life span at 79 years.

New research conducted at the University of Edinburgh and published in the journal *Nature Communications* proposes the possibility of greatly increasing one's life span through learning and exercising.

Exercise is the go-to advice usually dished out by physicians to improve the immune system. Why? Exercising works out the whole body both mentally and physically. Whenever someone exercises, their body produces chemicals known as endorphins.

Endorphins act similarly to morphine in its analgesic properties by reducing the perception of pain. Often with exercise, people reach the "runner's high" or a state of euphoria. This is why exercise is useful in reducing stress and boosting self-esteem.

Not only is exercise good mentally, but there are obvious physical benefits. Physically, exercise tones the body, which helps maintain a healthy weight. This is imperative in warding off the devel-

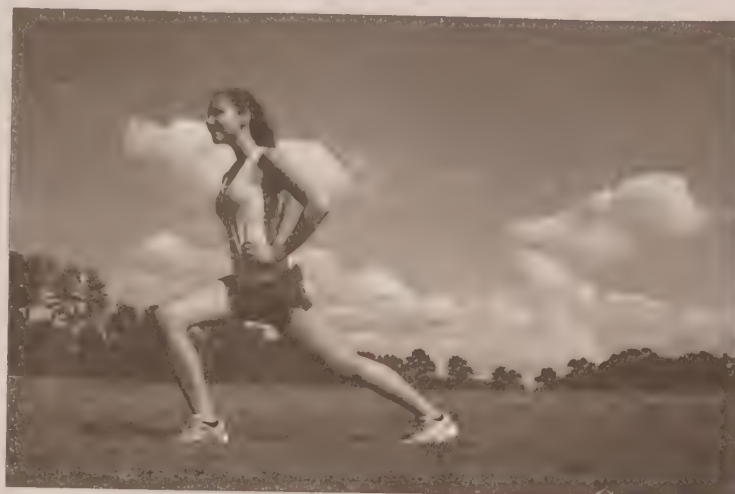
opment of various diseases such as type 2 diabetes and some cardiac diseases that may develop due to too much weight gain.

The study shows that being overweight can decrease one's lifespan.

This new study suggests that for every kilogram of weight past the healthy ideal weight that corresponds to the age and height, life expectancy decreases by two months.

However, the researchers found that smoking had some of the most adverse health effects. By investigating various lifestyle factors that impact longevity, scientists were able to conclude that cigarette smoking and other activities that have the potential to lead to lung cancer play the largest role in decreasing life expectancy.

Through experiments conducted at the University of Edinburgh, the research team discovered that for every packet of cigarettes smoked per day, lifespan is shortened by



Lifestyle habits such as exercise, regularly reading and smoking all contribute to one's lifespan.

seven years.

However, by cutting out smoking from your life, researchers say that it is possible to eventually get those seven years back.

By looking at the genes in the DNA of over 600,000 people from Europe, Australia, North America and the UK, researchers were able to discover other factors that affect lifespan.

For example, a gene that affects blood cholesterol levels showed that blood cholesterol has the potential to decrease life span by eight months.

Another gene that affects the immune system shows an increase of a year and a half to one's lifespan by living a healthy lifestyle.

Besides lifestyle changes, the study also shows that education influences how long we live. Researchers

found that for every additional year spent studying, one's lifespan also extends by approximately by a year. Studying for four years in college not only grants you a bachelor's degree but also may give you a longer life.

In a separate study published in September in *Social Science & Medicine*, people who read books were said to have lived two years longer than those who didn't read. This study was conducted on about 4,000 people over the age of 50.

Studying has been proven to not only increase many cognitive abilities, but has also now been shown to have a positive impact on longevity. These studies show that there are two key principles in living longer: exercise and studying.

Yellow Fever epidemic linked to blood letting



Allison Chen
History of Science

When residents along Philadelphia's Water Street first began dying in early August of 1793, few took notice. The narrow alley was densely populated and poorly aired, a place that a contemporary resident described as "a disagreeable street," the sort of place where people expected bad things, like fevers, to happen.

This illness, however, began to spread beyond Water Street. It was finally identified on Aug. 19 when Dr. Benjamin Rush, one of the most prominent American physicians of the time, announced that the cases were of yellow fever.

Philadelphia had not experienced a yellow fever epidemic in over 30 years, and the prospect of an impending one was terrifying.

Yellow fever symptoms were gruesome — high fevers, muscle aches, hemorrhage and the jaundice that gave the disease its name — and with no effective treatments, mortality rates could approach 50 percent.

Furthermore, no one knew for sure what had caused it. There were two main competing theories. The first was that the disease was caused by a pestilential environment, and the second was that it was contagious and passed from person to person.

Personal opinions were influenced equally by everything from political leanings to religious beliefs to actual scientific reasoning.

As news of the disease outbreak spread, residents of Philadelphia began to flee the city by the thousands. Between late August and the end of the epidemic in mid-November of the same year, nearly 20,000 had left.

Those who remained were mostly poorer citizens who did not have the means to escape, along with some physicians and civil servants.

For those left behind, it was soon clear that recommended preventative measures were having little success in halting the epidemic. Residents fired guns inside their houses in hopes that it would clean the air and carried camphor and soaked handkerchiefs in vinegar.

Attempts were made to clean the streets, and there were calls to quarantine incoming ships, especially those bearing French refugees from the West Indies, who were thought by some to carry the disease.

Despite these efforts, the death toll proceeded steadily. By the end of August, an estimated 325 people had died, and in the next few months there would be almost 5,000 more victims, or 10 to 15 percent of Philadelphia's pre-epidemic population.

For desperate Philadelphians, the pressing issue became how to treat yellow fever once it was contracted.

Here, just as with the cause of the disease, opinion split. The debate over treatment has often been visualized as one between progressive-minded physicians, mostly those of French origin, prescribing gentler treatments that we might accept today and stubborn traditionalists who were bleeding their patients into oblivion.

One of the more prominent advocates of milder therapy was Dr. Jean Devezze, a French doctor with experience practicing in the West Indies, who prescribed cinchona bark, wine, blistering of the skin, cold baths and bed rest.

In contrast, Rush and those who agreed with his methods believed firmly in the effectiveness of purging with emetics and laxatives, some of which contained mercury, accompanied by copious amounts of blood-letting.

While Devezze bled his patients too, Rush did so on an extreme level, sometimes recommending the removal of up to 80 percent of a patient's blood.

At the time, however, it was not Rush's methods that were considered traditionalist but Devezze's. The French physician simply used what were the assumed treat-

ments for yellow fever at the time, which Rush had in fact tried at first, only considering them ineffective after three of the four patients he treated in this way died.

Based in ancient principles of bodily humors, Rush's procedures took older bleeding and purging treatments to unprecedented extremes.

Their drastic nature was partly influenced by a new concept Rush had developed himself: that there was only one disease in the world, which was associated with the blood vessels and could be resolved solely through depletion.

A nice end to this story would have been if the yellow fever outbreak exposed the dangers and fallacies of extreme treatment and led to less destructive (though hardly more curative) treatment.

Rush's depletive regimen, sometimes labelled "heroic therapy," weathered criticism, even as that criticism grew in intensity throughout the epidemic.

Later the methods were carried on by Rush's pupils and applied to a variety of illnesses. There were numerous reasons why these treatments endured, including that they were novel, appeared to make sense from a certain contemporary conceptual standpoint and seemed better than doing nothing to combat disease.

The epidemic ended as soon as colder temperatures killed off the *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes which we now know transmit yellow fever. Despite that, heroic therapy lived on.

It continued to hold sway over (and some even say dominate) American medicine for at least the next 20 years.

Kids' self-perception influences academic achievement

By ISAAC CHEN
For The News-Letter

Over the past few decades, educational and developmental psychologists have attempted to understand the link between the concept of one's self and academic achievement.

A recent study published in the *Child Development* journal looked specifically into students' self-concepts of ability, or a student's perception of their capacity to successfully perform on academic tasks.

Lead researcher María Inés Susperreguy of Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and colleagues at the University of Michigan found that self-concept in math and reading in young children plays a significant role in predicting later math and reading achievement, regardless of performance level.

"Our study shows that youths' perceptions of their abilities in middle childhood are important in promoting their later achievement in math and reading," Susperreguy said, according to *ScienceDaily*.

Several factors were controlled and taken into account during the experiment, such as demographics, early academic achievements and mother's education.

Past studies have shown that reminding children of a negative self-concept in math and other subjects have had deleterious effects on subsequent test scores. However, no previous study has examined the effects of self-concept over a period of time.

Unlike previous studies, the researchers at the Pon-

tificia Universidad de Chile and the University of Michigan explored the link between self-concept of academic achievements throughout schooling and their actual achievements

through middle childhood and into adolescence.

As students transition from middle school to high school, they face important decisions such as choosing between an advanced math or English class.

During this time, self-concept of their ability influences their decision and the later outcomes. Therefore the researchers decided to examine this specific time frame on self-concepts.

According to Pamela Davis-Kean, professor of psychology and research professor at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan, the study addresses whether or not the relationship affects students across all levels of performance, or only for those who achieve the best grades.

Some researchers have proposed that the relationship depends heavily on the academic outcomes themselves.

"When trying to understand the issues of low academic performance, we often examine what additional skills children need



Children's perception of their abilities contributes to their later academic achievements.

to succeed in school," Davis-Kean said, according to *ScienceDaily*.

The researchers took samples from three data sets of students aged five to 18, with 13,901 British students from Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children, 1,354 American students from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development and 237 American students from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics-Child Development Supplement.

Students from each dataset were tested by various self-concept measures and standardized administrative achievement tests.

For example, students were asked questions such as "How good at math are you?" and were given a seven-point scale with one being "not good at all" to seven being "very good."

According to Davis-Kean, the study tracked each student and their academic achievements for up to 10 years after the start of the study.

"Our findings, replicated across three data sets,

show that it is important to understand the relation between children's perceptions of their abilities and later achievement," she said.

Contrary to views that high academic achievers are driven by the relationship between self-concept and academic achievement, Susperreguy suggests that this relationship is just as, if not more, important for low-performing students.

"This relation is not limited to students who perform at the top levels, but extends to students with different levels of achievement in math and reading," Susperreguy said. "Even the lowest-performing students who had a more positive view of their math and reading abilities had higher levels of achievement in math and reading."

While this study did not account for other factors such as the influence of teachers, parents and peers, it does identify the important role of self-concept on later achievement and suggests that teachers should be offered proper guidance to help raise students' self-concept in their abilities.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Math skills are essential for scientific learning



Jonathan Patterson
Science in Society

We need to talk about math. Now I know that not everyone loves math, and that's okay. Math can be challenging, abstract, confusing and, for some of us, just painful.

A Fields Medal is not in everyone's future, and that's fine. However, that shouldn't stop people from acquiring a decent level of mathematical understanding.

Ignorance of mathematics is yet another iteration of the scientific illiteracy that runs throughout our society today, particularly in America. What stands out about mathematical ignorance, though, is just how widespread and accepted it has become.

This idea of so many people dismissing their lackluster math skills was brought up in a discussion between astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson and British biologist Richard Dawkins at the Hayden Planetarium in 2015.

Describing what he viewed as "an unwarranted pride in being bad in mathematics," Dawkins claimed that such blatant ignorance is uniquely reserved for the field of mathematics. As Tyson added, the joke of "I was never good at math" has become a common and acceptable excuse.

This is a major problem, and part of the reason why so many people today question scientific fact rather than embrace it. Scientific illiteracy has become embedded into American culture, and mathematical ignorance is at the forefront of the problem.

Currently the Program for International Student Assessment ranks the US 38th out of 71 countries in math.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress reported math scores among American 4th and 8th graders dropping for the first time in decades. America's best chance to improve its standing in math lies in this current generation of young stu-

dents.

No one would ever joke about not being able to read a book or not knowing who the President is; why is math any different? Why is math not granted the same amount of respect as other academic fields in our culture?

Now, knowing how to take a derivative or work with a Taylor series won't help most Americans, but a general knowledge of math is so much more than that.

You see, being mathematically ignorant doesn't make someone stupid — it just robs them of the opportunity to fully understand and appreciate math as a whole field, rather than just as a tool for working with numbers.

It's the latter that causes much of the misconception that math is shrouded in. As William Thurston said, "mathematics is not about numbers, equations, computations or algorithms: It is about understanding."

It's that sentiment that makes math so valuable, yet so chronically misunderstood. We need to close the gap between what math is perceived as and what math actually is. The best way to do that is through our education system.

The better this country is at math, the better off it will be in the long run. Learning math doesn't just allow you to take integrals, it teaches you a unique way of thinking and problem-solving. This is why it is so crucial that no one settles for simply being "bad at math."

Closing yourself off from mathematics is like refusing to learn how to read. Although the Fibonacci numbers might not have a significant impact on your life, acquiring a mathematical mindset will.

Learning math will teach you to look at things logically, not just how to find the area under a curve.

This country cannot afford to continue down the path of mathematical ignorance we have started on.

With climate change becoming more and more threatening everyday, AI reaching new heights and science in general becoming more important than ever, Americans need to be scientifically literate to thrive in today's world.

We cannot do that, however, until we, as a country, stop ignoring math and start embracing it.

Students attend conference for computer scientists

HOPPER, PAGE B7
food and sweatshirts.

One stand-out event was a field trip to Orlando's Epcot Center, where the software company Palantir rented out the French Pavilion for an evening, giving the attendees a front row seat to the nightly fireworks display.

Sarkar spoke about many of the other fun activities over the three days, one of which was a scavenger hunt around Epcot Center, solving riddles and clues about different countries.

"Palantir rented out the whole pavilion, and the whole thing was really amazing," Sarkar said. "It was so much fun to see the fireworks that close and have all that free food."

Both women also spoke

about their experiences in the field of science and technology. As women in the tech field, neither of them have felt much prejudice in a male-dominated field.

While they both acknowledge that the field is male dominated, they are far more focused on all the opportunities being a women in this field has provided them. They referred to events like Grace Hopper that have introduced them to opportunities they would have never otherwise known about.

Overall, according to Sarkar, Grace Hopper gives young women in science and technology the opportunity to explore their interests in technology and



COURTESY OF REENA SARKAR
Sarkar and Donis enjoyed both the professional and social parts of the event.

puts them in contact with other like-minded women. It inspires them to think bigger and puts them in contact with companies, giving them real world experience to help propel their passions.

"Grace Hopper taught

me that it is a great time to be a woman in technology. There are so many opportunities for women, so take advantage of them. What matters is your interest in the subject and passion for the science," Sarkar said.

Applied Physics Lab interns present research projects

APL, PAGE B7
than that.

"My goal is... to be able to learn from the intern. Seeing how they interpret things through their eyes, it actually opens it up for me to see how we could approach the... project a little differently, [since it is] something I wouldn't have thought of before," Shipley said in an interview.

According to Krill, being a RISE@APL mentor isn't just about providing students a unique opportunity to learn, but also about the chance to collaborate with new minds and understand different perspectives.

On Oct. 16, six of the 33 RISE@APL students gathered at the Glass Pavilion to present their research.

These students (junior Brandon Duderstadt, senior Geordan Gutow, junior Zanir Habib, junior Sarah Denenberg, senior Nathan McIntosh and senior Matthew Heacock) created posters that culminated all their research from the

summer.

Their projects were diverse, covering topics like devices that could track a person in a large crowd to Phased-Array Doppler Sonar to hacking a drone.

Heacock, who is majoring in mechanical engineering, spent the summer compiling data from argo float devices in the ocean and computing the numbers into easily accessible and usable data for scientists.

"Doing the APL internship was very insightful into what the actual engineering workplace looked like. It was interesting, because it's not what you expect: It takes a step back, and you're like, wow, [with] real engineering, you need to sit down and do the behind the scenes work," Heacock said.

Before RISE@APL, Heacock wasn't sure what his chosen career path really looked like, but now he has a much greater understanding and is excited to continue in mechanical engineering.

Denenberg, who is studying computer engineering, created a device that could test the waveforms emitted from another device being built at APL. Her device acted as a preliminary check to make sure the other APL device was working properly before being sent off for expensive government testing.

Denenberg said that the internship gave her a chance to explore her field in a way she couldn't in a classroom.

"I wanted something where I could use electrical engineering theory and computer science coding; this gave me that. This was different from my school work in that it was using stuff I learned, but it wasn't just one sided," Denenberg said.

McIntosh is a mechanical engineering major. He conducted research in generating codes and creating a user manual for low-thrust space navigation vehicles.

While working with

RISE@APL, McIntosh was able to work with other interns from various technical backgrounds to create an entire space mission, and he discovered that he would like to pursue a career in the space sector.

When asked about his experience with RISE@APL, McIntosh said he found it extremely valuable.

"It's a way to experience truly ground-breaking work that's happening in the field... getting to work on this kind of stuff is something that's really hard to do if you don't have these sorts of opportunities," McIntosh said.

According to Krill, RISE@APL offers Hopkins students the opportunity to work with distinguished researchers and on some of the most unique projects in the nation.

"If I... could roll back the clock, I would love to be a student in the Whiting School or Krieger and have an opportunity to go to APL, to just see how the biggest problems in the world are handled," Krill said.

Mice learn sex and aggression from their female peers

MICE, PAGE B7
neurons in action.

Anderson borrowed this brain imaging technology from Mark Schnitzer, who is one of his lab collaborators at Stanford University.

When studying the mice, the team first distinguishes between what they call a "resident" mouse and an "intruder" mouse.

They select a socially experienced and sexually active mouse as the "resident" and then record images of the stages of the mouse's brain activities as an "intruder" or alternate mouse is introduced to the area.

To the researchers' surprise, they found that one of two types of neurons in the VMH area is activated depending on the gender of the "intruder."

Thus researchers can deduce whether the encountered mouse is a male or a female just by interpreting the brain images.

Anderson took the research one step further by performing this experiment, what they have come to call a "resident/intruder test," on a mouse with no

previous sexual exposure. The results of the test immediately contradicted the scientists' belief.

If the association between gender and sexual or aggressive behaviors is indeed innate, the naive mouse should have very similar neuronal firing activities as the sexually experienced mouse.

What the study found however was that only after repeated social interactions with different genders of mice did the naive mouse begin to develop sexual tendencies toward the females and aggressive tendencies toward the males. In particular, social contact with females seemed to be the key to developing sex-specific neuronal activations.

This discovery could only mean one thing — that mice do not have sex-specific neurons from birth. Rather, sexual and aggressive behaviors alike could only be evoked in a mouse after it has been repeatedly exposed to social experiences with other mice.

Ann Kennedy, a postdoctoral scholar in biology



PUBLIC DOMAIN
This study showed that sex specific neuronal activations occur in mice.

and biological engineering at Caltech and the co first-author of the paper, elaborates on the team's findings.

"This area of the brain, the ventromedial hypothalamus, is a primitive, ancient region. We used to think of it as the basement of the brain, more like a plumbing system than a computer. Our study shows that this region exhibits plasticity and computation," Kennedy said, according to *ScienceDaily*.

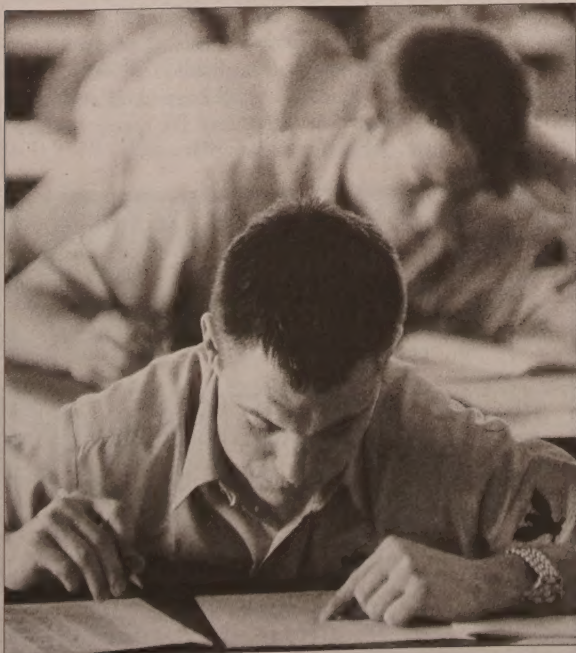
The research team's work appears in a paper in the most recent issue of *Nature*. Anderson says that the team's ultimate goal is to examine the nature vs.

nurture question through a holistic neuroscience research approach.

Anderson believes that the anatomical relevance between sex and aggression might also have further implications.

"If this were true, then someday we might be able to treat someone who's a habitual violent sexual offender by functionally disentangling their neurons," Anderson said.

However, he acknowledges that the research is still in a very early stage, far from where it would need to be to begin to consider using it to develop therapies.



PUBLIC DOMAIN

The United States ranks 38th out of 71 countries in mathematics education.

NFC's top contenders coming out of the West

NFC, FROM B12

have been very inconsistent. Sunday's loss to the Chicago Bears was especially disconcerting. Carolina certainly has Super Bowl potential, but I do not see them stringing together enough wins against quality teams to play for the Lombardi Trophy.

Next up are the reigning NFC champions: the Atlanta Falcons. Reaching consecutive Super Bowls rarely occurs, and the Falcons' hopes of doing so are beginning to look less and less likely. At the start of the season, Atlanta was playing with vengeance and looked primed for another successful year.

However, they followed up the three-game winning streak with a three-game losing streak and now have serious question marks on both sides of the ball. After blowing a 17-point lead against the Miami Dolphins in Week Six, it appears that closing out games remains a major concern for the Falcons.

Whether it is fatigue or mental vulnerability, Atlanta needs to solve this problem before they let any more games get away from them.

As for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, they are not entirely out of the playoff picture but have yet to record an impressive win. They have showed great promise but still seem to be a year away from legitimate contention.

In the NFC West, the Los Angeles Rams and Seattle Seahawks are both teams with the potential to make a deep playoff run.

Let's look at the Rams first. After an underwhelming rookie season, Jared Goff has shown dramatic improvement in first-year coach Sean McVay's system. Additionally, Todd Gurley has run the ball exceptionally well.

With its solid young core, Los Angeles has the potential to be among the League's best teams for years to come. Expect the Rams to end their 12-year playoff drought and be a force to be reckoned with come January.

While the Rams are on the verge of becoming perennial contenders, the Seattle Seahawks are well on their way to clinching a sixth consecutive playoff berth. Seattle's greatest asset may be its experience, as its highly successful roster has undergone few major changes over the past several years.

Russell Wilson is having another Pro Bowl-caliber season as the leader of the offense, while the defense has done its part stifling opposing offenses. The Seahawks know how to win big games, and all of the pieces are in place for them to make another deep playoff run this season.

Much like the AFC, the NFC is filled with uncertainty. The forthcoming weeks will likely provide some clarity, but the NFC still has numerous candidates that could potentially represent the Conference on Feb. 4.

M. and W. Swimming compete against tough D-I opponents

By EMILIE HOFFER
Sports Editor

Both the men's and women's swim teams headed to Annapolis, Md., this past Friday for some tough competition against D-I opponents: the United States Naval Academy Midshipmen (Mids) and the Towson University Tigers.

In just their second meet of the season, the Blue Jays fell to the Midshipmen and the Tigers in team scores but still managed some impressive individual swims.

"This is a tough meet every year for us because of the intense competition," senior Gwynnie LaMastra said. "As a team, we really rose to the occasion and were able to compete at a D-I level."

Two weeks ago LaMastra was honored as the CollegeSwimming National Division III Women's Swimmer of the Week after sweeping the breaststroke events in the season opener at the College of William & Mary on Oct. 7.

This meet was no different. LaMastra paced the Jays, finishing second in the 200 Individual Medley against Towson, second in the 100 Breast against the Mids, second in the 200 Breast and second as a member of the 200 Medley Relay against both the Tigers and the Mids.

Helping LaMastra lead the Jays through the competitive atmosphere was

senior Courtney Cowan. Cowan broke the Hopkins dual-meet record in the 200 Fly with a time of 2:06.54, which was good enough for second against the Tigers and third against Navy.

Cowan, who was recently honored by CollegeSwimming as the Independent Swimmer of the Week after the season-opener against W&M, also took a pair of second-place finishes in the 500 Free against both Navy and Towson and contributed to a third-place finish as a member of the 200 Medley Relay.

The Blue Jays also received some impressive performances from freshmen freestyle swimmers. Amy Pearson led the team in the 1000 Free with a time of 10:37.42 to place her in second against Towson and fourth against Navy.

Fellow freshman Emma McElrath swam the 200 Free in 1:54.91 to pace the Jays and placed second against Towson and third against Navy in just her second career meet.

The Blue Jays ended the day with yet another dual meet record, this time in the 200 Medley Relay. Led by a seasoned veteran, senior Anna Wisniewski, the team included three underclassman — sophomore Alison Shapiro, sophomore Sonia Lin and freshman Mikayla Bisignani — impressively setting a new program record with a time of 1:37.

"We have been through about a month and a half of intense training, with our coaches really trying to prepare us for our mid-season meet coming up in December," LaMastra said. "Overall, the women's team really stepped up with the dual meet records."

On the men's side, sophomore Brandon Fabian led the Blue Jays with impressive wins in both the 200 and the 500 Frees against Navy and Towson.

"The men's team threw down some seriously impressive times to really put us on the map in the beginning of the season," LaMastra said.

Fabian took the individual title in the 200 Free by nearly two seconds, touching the wall with a time of 1:40.76. Later he followed with another impressive first-place finish in the 500 Free, clocking in at 4:37.90.

Fabian took his third win of the night as a member of the 200 Free Relay, along with freshman Nathaniel Davenport, senior Mark Wilson and junior Alex Carson.

The team ended the night on a high note for the Blue Jays, beating out both the Midshipmen and the Tigers for the win.

Also highlighting the meet for the men, Carson was the top Blue Jay finisher in the 100 Back with a time of 52.61, which gave him second against the Tigers and fourth against the Mids.



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The Hopkins women's swim team broke two school records on Friday.

Wilson led the Jays in the 50 Free sprint, touching the wall in 21.77 for third against the Tigers and fourth against Navy.

Meanwhile in the distance events, junior Erik Bostrom paced the Jays, taking third-place in the 1000 Free against Navy and second against Towson.

In just his second collegiate meet, freshman Noah Frassrand had an impressive showing for the Jays, leading the team in the 200 Breast with a time of 2:09.38, which landed him a second place finish against the Tigers and a fourth place finish against the Mids.

Later, in the 200 Individual Medley, Frassrand was the top-finisher for the Blue Jays, placing third against the Tigers.

After the meet, Head Coach Scott Armstrong spoke to HopkinsSports about the team's performance against the Midshipmen and the Tigers.

"Our Blue Jays battled through an extra tough week of training and stepped up to the challenge against some great D-I competition," Armstrong said. "We learned a lot, but were enthused to see the progress from two weeks ago."

The Blue Jays will have two weeks to recover before they are back in the pool on Friday, Nov. 3, for the annual Thomas Murphy Invitational.

Hosted by Loyola University, the Blue Jays will travel up N. Charles Street to take on the Greyhounds and the Drexel University Dragons.

76ers fans must trust the process and give the team time to grow



Mohid Khan
Sportpinion

As the most hostile and bad-mannered in all of sports, have somehow mustered the patience to wait five long years for our professional basketball team, the 76ers, to accumulate assets in the form of lottery picks and veterans.

We, as Philly sports fans, are loyal and cannot stand performances below expectations.

Unfortunately, however, some have already begun to conclude that the 76ers' 2017-2018 season has gone south. I've read countless Facebook posts by disgruntled fans on how we should have drafted Lonzo Ball, how Markelle Fultz is a bust, how Head Coach Brett Brown should be fired.

I've received countless taunts from my friends on how "the process is a failure" or how we should "go back to square one."

Nevertheless, these early assertions about the 76ers' season are mostly baseless. They are impatient conclusions by fans who should wait at least a couple (or

maybe closer to 60) games before rioting against the coaching staff or a particular injured player. This is the second leg of the process: allowing the team to develop its chemistry and find its groove.

The Miami Heat, with LeBron James, Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade — three hall-of-fame-caliber players — needed time to develop chemistry, and by that time all three became veterans.

The 76ers' young core may eventually evolve into hall-of-fame talent, and it's too early to write them off: Joel Embiid, Ben Simmons and Markelle Fultz have not even played a collective 40 games.

Many of these assertions are impatient, badly researched and hasty. Although Lonzo Ball had a remarkable game against the Phoenix Suns, he was utterly dominated by Patrick Beverley and the Los Angeles Clippers.

There is no evidence yet that Ball is a franchise-altering talent. And no matter how well Ball performed in college, Fultz was the consensus number one overall pick.

This means that most experts, including the 76ers' General Manager Bryan Colangelo, felt that Fultz had more potential and was a better fit for the 76ers than Ball and all the other highly touted point

guard prospects in the 2017 draft class.

Fans seem to ignore our more athletic, bigger and overall better pass-first point guard Ben Simmons, who has earned comparisons to Magic Johnson with his size and playmaking ability. Furthermore, the assertion that Markelle Fultz is a bust is asinine and groundless.

Kobe Bryant, one of the greatest players of all time, came off the bench, barely scored and did not evolve into the assassin that won five championships within his first couple games. Fultz may not be Kobe, but he still has potential to be an elite Harden-esque scorer.

Although it's too early to conclude his career trajectory, Fultz should be benched until he fully recovers from his injured right shoulder.

He has been hesitant to take long- and mid-range jumpers, which he shot with ease throughout his college career and during the summer league. If you watch closely, he often uses his left arm to go for rebounds. There is something wrong with Fultz's shoulder, and it is frightening to allow him to exacerbate it.

Speaking of poor player management, current head coach Brett Brown has done a rather poor job with the rotations and an especially poor job with posi-

tioning Embiid.

Against the Boston Celtics, Embiid practically looked like a second-round shooting guard, bricking five wide-open threes.

Touted as the next Ha-keem Olajuwon, Embiid should be given the ball in the low post and draw defenders, allowing for the more high percentage shooters like J. J. Reddick, Robert Covington and Fultz (when healthy) to knock down the three-ball.

Furthermore, insisting on allowing process-era point guard T. J. McConnell to run the offense when you have Fultz on the floor seems utterly foolish. Refusing to give Jahlil Okafor minutes is another mistake.

Although previously a lazy defender, Okafor put in serious work this off-season and is still a talented scorer. At the very least, let him build his trade value, because he is too talented to sit on a bench. Okafor should be getting the minutes that Amir Johnson

eats up when Embiid sits.

Regardless, it has been only three games. It is foolish to think that our core of players, who have not even had half a season's worth of experience, can collectively become a Warriors-esque juggernaut in one day.

The 76ers played the one, three and four seed in the Eastern Conference last year, so it is definitely too early to be drawing conclusions on how successful the process is or is not.

Despite all the negatives, 76ers fans have lots to be excited about: Robert Covington put up 29 points against the Wizards; Fultz is a hustle defender; Embiid, as per usual, dominates the defensive end of the floor; and Simmons is as good as advertised.

Simmons, in his first three games, has recorded 10 or more points and rebounds as well as five or more assists, a feat last accomplished in 1960.

Just keep calm and keep trusting the process. Success will come.

Errata: Oct. 19 Edition

In the October 19, 2017 edition of *The News-Letter*, writer Brandon Wolfe was incorrectly identified as Brandon Fielder.

The News-Letter regrets this error.

SPORTS

Volleyball's historic win streak comes to an end

By DAVID GLASS
For The News-Letter

The Hopkins women's volleyball team's 18-game winning streak ended on the road against the 25th ranked Stevenson University Mustangs, losing 3-1 on Thursday. After the loss, the Jays bounced back and swept the Ursinus College Bears on Saturday.

Freshman outside hitter Simone Bliss talked about the team's development.

"Our team has come a long way since the beginning of the season," Bliss said. "We've all come together and bought into the idea that we're on a mission together."

Stevenson, whose only loss of the season came against Carnegie Mellon University on Sept. 16, took early control of the match, getting off to a 16-6 lead in the first set. The Mustangs maintained a large lead for the rest of the set, winning it 25-17 after a kill from middle Victoria Prokic on set point.

Both teams went back and forth in the second set. Stevenson was up 24-22 until back-to-back kills from senior outside hitter Elizabeth Wuerstle tied it up. The scored was tied again at 26, but the Mustangs took the next two points, winning the set on a kill from middle hitter Chelsea Ireland.

Bliss spoke about the Jays' uncharacteristic performance in their first loss since September 12 against Wittenberg University.

"We put ourselves at a disadvantage by starting off slow and not being crisp on defense or aggressive enough on offense, especially in the beginning," Bliss said. "Throughout the game, we made improvements and battled, but we definitely could have played a lot better."

The Blue Jays were at their best in the third set, propelling themselves to a 15-8 lead. An ace from junior middle blocker Sasha Gorelik put Hopkins up 21-17.

Stevenson, however, went on a 7-3 run to take the 25-24 lead. At match point, Hopkins managed to win the next three points, which included a kill from freshman opposite Morgan Wu; an ace from freshman setter and middle Natalie Aston; and another kill from Wu.

The fourth set started off close, with the score tied at 11. Stevenson then went on a 6-2 run and soon had a 22-17 lead.

Hopkins fought back, winning four of the next six points. However, Stevenson went up 24-21 and won the point, the set and the match. The 3-1 win extended the

Mustangs' own win streak to 13 games and evened the all-time Hopkins-Stevenson series at eight games apiece.

Bliss, who led the team with 17 kills, reflected on what the team was able to take away from the loss.

"Our game against Stevenson gave us an opportunity to acknowledge as a team that in order to be excellent we have to be totally engaged and do our thing," she said. "We have to give everything we have for every ball and stay frosty throughout every play."

On Saturday afternoon, Hopkins came back from the loss by winning three straight sets against Ursinus. The Bears have yet to win a set in Conference play.

The first set started off tight, with the score tied up at 12. After that, the Blue Jays took full control of the set and the match, winning the first set after a strong 13-2 run.

The Jays took an early lead in the second set, going up 11-4. They maintained a sizeable lead for the rest of the set, winning it 25-12 following a kill from Wuerstle. The senior outside hitter, following this match, is now four aces away from tying the all-time school record.

The third and final set followed in similar fashion. The Blue Jays got off to an early 12-4 lead and eventually won the set 25-7, with the final point coming off of a kill from sophomore outside hitter Louisa Kishon.

Bliss, along with Kishon, led the team in kills again, with 11 apiece. Bliss and Kishon also now lead the team in kills on the season, with 234 and 242, respectively.

Bliss spoke highly of Head Coach Tim Cole's system and the practice environment.

"Everyone is of equal value and has a voice on the team. Everyone contributes and influences everyone else," she said.

She also stressed the importance of her teammates and coaching staff.

"Everyday I am surrounded by people who are bringing their own individual contributions to the table, which I in turn can use to learn and grow," she said.

Hopkins is now 20-3 on the season, winning 19 out of its last 20 games. The Jays are also undefeated in the Conference this season (8-0) and currently have a Conference win streak of 18 games, dating back to last season.

The Blue Jays will wrap up Conference play and their regular season against the Franklin & Marshall College Diplomats on Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m. in Goldfarb Gym.

By COURTNEY COLWELL
For The News-Letter

In a victorious week for the Hopkins men's soccer team, the Jays garnered two Centennial Conference wins, bringing their record to 13-1-2 with just one game left to go in the regular season.

The Jays first took on the McDaniel Green Terror last Wednesday night at Homewood Field. Scoring early on in the first half, the Jays continued to dominate offensively throughout the game, with senior midfielder Drew Collins knocking in the Blue Jays' second goal of the night in the 54th minute.

Following the 2-0 win, a loss against Swarthmore and a draw against Dickinson, Hopkins formally clinched their spot in the Centennial Conference Tournament.

Refusing to rest on their laurels, however, the Jays kept their momentum going into this weekend. In their away match against Ursinus this past Saturday, Hopkins capitalized on offensive opportunity after offensive opportunity. Scoring three times in each half, Hopkins further enhanced their first-place standing in the Centennial Conference with the 6-0 win.

Given two dominant performances, this week's

Athlete of the Week could have gone to any number of players on the men's soccer team. Senior goalie Bryan See earned his 10th shutout of the season this week, and sophomore forwards Liam Moylan and Achim Younker each tallied an impressive two goals against Ursinus.

However, this week we look to a younger player, whose rookie season has proven to be quite impressive thus far. With five points on the week, this week's Athlete of the Week deservedly goes to freshman midfielder RJ Moore.

This Virginia native has been a consistent performer

for the Jays since he joined the Hopkins team this fall.

Starting in every game so far, Moore has accumulated an impressive two goals and seven

assists in his rookie season. This past weekend alone, Moore contributed a goal in each game and added an assist to his record in the game versus McDaniel.

Moore is tied both for leading the team in assists and for second in assists within the Centennial Conference. Most importantly, with his seven assists on the season, Moore is just two assists shy of the Centennial Conference record, and he has already surpassed the school's record for assists garnered by a freshman.

With one regular season game left and the postseason lingering, there's no telling what more he could accomplish.

Following his standout week, Moore was named this week's Centennial Conference Offensive Player of the Week, the first weekly honor for the freshman. Moore was kind enough to sit down with *The News-Letter* to discuss what the award meant to him on a personal level and what this week's wins meant for the team.

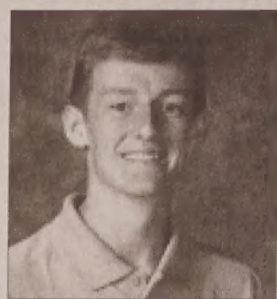
The News-Letter: How hard has the transition been from high school soccer to the collegiate level?

RJ Moore: Transitioning from high school soccer to college soccer is definitely a step up in intensity, as the college game is played at a fast pace.

With that said, I feel as though my club and high school soccer experiences prepared me well for the collegiate level, especially given my summer training with the BRYC 99 Elite team in preparation for the U.S. Youth Soccer National Championships in July.

N-L: In Wednesday's game against McDaniel, the team clinched its spot in the Centennial Conference playoffs. How excited was the team about this achievement?

RM: We were certainly excited to earn a spot in the playoffs, but just clinching a spot was not the end goal. We have our eyes set on winning the Conference Championship and making a run in the NCAA Tournament, and I think we are



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Freshman midfielder RJ Moore.

capable of doing that.

N-L: How did it feel to win Centennial Conference Offensive Player of the Week this week?

RM: I was very happy to win Player of the Week. I thought our team as a whole had two strong performances this week, and we are looking to keep that momentum going forward in our game against Dickinson on Friday and then in the Conference Tournament.

N-L: Going into your last regular season game on Friday against Dickinson, what is the team focused on improving upon or working on?

RM: The team is focused on improving our connections in the final third and converting the chances we create into goals.

N-L: Do you have any personal goals you are hoping to achieve in playoffs?

RM: Personally, I am hoping to contribute in whatever way possible to best help our team claim the Conference Championship, whether that's by creating chances, finishing chances or helping out on defense.

VITAL STATISTICS

Name: RJ Moore
Year: Freshman
Sport: Soccer
Major: Applied Mathematics and Statistics
Hometown: Vienna, Va.
High School: Gonzaga College HS

Football dominates Gettysburg Bullets in shut out

By BRANDON WOLFE
For The News-Letter

The 24th-ranked football team continued their strong season this week, as they dominated the Gettysburg College Bullets 52-0.

The Jays' offense got off to a roll halfway through the first quarter as sophomore quarterback David Tammaro connected with freshman running back Zac Fernandez for a 48-yard touchdown pass on the second play of the drive.

Hopkins would extend the lead to 14 after junior running back Tyler Messinger capped off a 77-yard drive with a one-yard punch into the end zone.

The Jays would continue to put points on the board, taking their first drive of the second quarter 66 yards. Tammaro hit junior wide receiver Luke McFadden on back-to-back plays for seven and 15 yards, with the latter finding McFadden in the end zone as the Jays took a three-possession lead, 21-0.

Tammaro would work the ground game on the Blue Jays' next possession, finishing off a four-play, 40-yard drive with a six-yard carry that put Hopkins ahead 28-0. This score would stand as the second quarter finished up. The Jays headed into the locker room at the half with a four-possession lead.

Riding their momentum from their impressive first-half performance, sophomore kick returner Patrick Kelly took back the opening kickoff 95 yards to give the Jays a 35-0 lead just 12 sec-

onds into the third quarter.

He is the third player in Hopkins history with a 95 yard return, which is the longest in school history. Howard Caplan was the first to do it in 1928 against Columbia University, and in 1999 Harrison Bernstein accomplished the feat against the Merchant Marine Academy.

Kelly's performance also earned him the honor of Centennial Conference Special Teams Player of the Week. He joined seniors kicker Jamie Sullivan and wide receiver David Brookhart in receiving the award this season.

Messinger would pick up his second touchdown of the day on the Jays' next possession, this time from three yards out off of a four-play, 40-yard drive as the Jays continued to show their offensive prowess. The score improved to 42-0, with both teams trading possessions in the remainder of the quarter and failing to put points on the board to round off the third.

Freshman quarterback Nick Leongas would take charge under center and guide the Blue Jay offense 49 yards down the field before scrambling 23 yards into the end zone, piling on even more points for the Jays to take a 49-0 lead.

The Jays' final drive was

a clock burner, as Hopkins used 16 plays and 68 yards, taking 9:37 off of the clock before Sullivan booted a 22-yard field goal. As the final seconds ticked off of the clock, Hopkins would emerge victorious in a 52-0 domination.

With the impressive offensive performance, which accumulated 607 yards (292 yards rushing and 315 yards passing) while holding the ball for 41 minutes on a school-record 101 plays, the Blue Jay defense was steadfast against the Bullets.

The Jays surrendered only 139 yards while giving up just seven first downs, which limited Gettysburg to 19 minutes of possession time. This is made even more impressive by the fact that Dickinson had scored 20 points in each of their first six games and ended the game with 250 fewer yards than their season average.

"We did a great job of staying focused throughout the game while playing with a lot of emotion. It's easier to shake off any rust that comes with a bye week when the lights are on at Homewood," sophomore linebacker James Closser said.

Sophomore defensive end Mike Kalanik was tied for the team lead in tackles with junior safety Ian Lodge at six tackles in the game. Of

his six tackles, 3.5 of them were for a loss and one was a sack. He now has 18 tackles for a loss on the season, which is the second highest total in school history.

Sophomore defensive back Jonah Gundrum and freshman lineman Kyle Roberts also contributed a sack each, while freshman linebacker Braxton Ransaw and sophomore defensive end Arman Koul combined for a sack.

"I thought we came out and played with intensity. Everyone was excited to be there this weekend, and it really showed from the first kickoff," junior safety Michael Curry said.

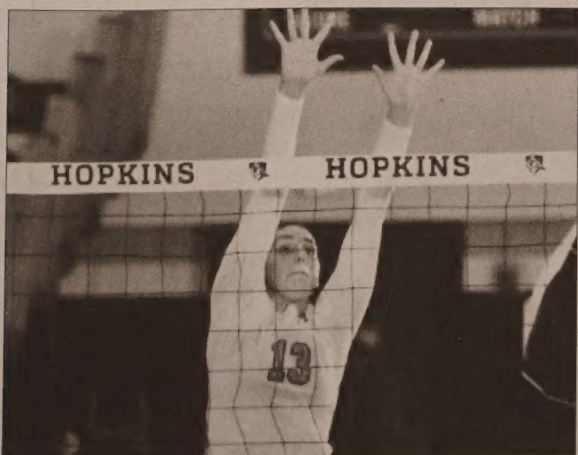
This was head coach Jim Margraff's 150th Centennial Conference victory. He is the first coach in Conference history to reach the milestone.

The Blue Jays will next travel to Allentown, Pa. to face off against rival Muhlenberg College in what could be the decisive game of the Centennial Conference.

"Muhlenberg will be a great challenge for us this week. We are excited to go up there and play a tough team in a great environment," Closser added.

Curry agreed, adding that they face a team that could potentially knock them out of a bid to the NCAA Tournament.

"We know they're going to have a good game plan and execute it well, we just have to do the same. This game is going to be emotional and intense. We just have to play with a steady poise," Curry said.



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Freshman Natalie Aston led the Blue Jays against Ursinus with 20 assists.

SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

Football Head Coach Jim Margraff won his 150th career Centennial Conference game on Saturday against Gettysburg, the team he got his first Conference win against. He is the only coach in Conference history to reach the 150-win mark.

CALENDAR

Friday
M. Soccer vs. Dickinson: 7 p.m.

Saturday
Volleyball vs. F&M: 1 p.m.
W. Soccer vs. F&M: 1 p.m.
Field Hockey vs. F&M: 4 p.m.

Which NFC teams will make it to the playoffs?



Daniel Landy
DanLand

As this NFL season enters its seventh week, pre-season predictions continue to be debunked, and answers are still few and far between.

In the NFC especially, the presumed juggernauts have fallen flat. Of the six teams from the Conference that made the playoffs last year, only two would qualify this year, and zero currently lead their division.

We begin in the NFC East. This year, the early outcomes have been especially surprising. The Dallas Cowboys and New York Giants — who both reached the playoffs last year — have been mediocre and abysmal, respectively.

The Cowboys should not be counted out just yet, as their offense has begun to show the explosiveness that led them to the best record in the NFC last year. However, a tough remaining schedule and Ezekiel Elliott's looming potential six-game suspension will make it difficult for Dallas to return to the playoffs this season. At 3-3, the Cowboys are still very much in contention.

On the other hand, the 1-6 Giants should be looking forward to next season. A popular preseason pick to reach the Super Bowl, New York has completely imploded, in large part due to the series of injuries that has ravaged the team.

While the Cowboys and Giants have regressed, the Philadelphia Eagles have taken the League by storm. The Eagles are currently riding a five-game win streak and now boast an NFL-best 6-1 record.

Carson Wentz is emerging as a frontrunner for MVP and has the offense clicking on all cylinders. Despite only being in his second year, Wentz has already become a very efficient passer and has held his mistakes to a minimum.

Zach Ertz has also emerged as an elite tight end and Wentz's favorite target. If Philadelphia's defense continues to do enough to keep the score close, the offense is explosive enough to carry the Eagles to victory on a consistent basis.

While the Eagles are certainly the division's most legitimate contender,

the Washington Redskins are also in position to make the playoffs. While their 3-3 record is not particularly impressive, the Redskins have several impressive wins on their resume and have only lost to worthy opponents — the Eagles twice and the Kansas City Chiefs once.

Now onto the NFC North, whose landscape has drastically changed in recent weeks: Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers appeared to be destined to reach the playoffs for a ninth consecutive season.

However, Rodgers' broken collarbone has the sent Packers into a state of despair. Due to Green Bay's bleak prognosis, barring a breakout campaign from backup quarterback Brett Hundley, the Minnesota Vikings have emerged as clear frontrunners to win the division.

Minnesota quietly put together a solid start to the season. Now with Rodgers out until at least December, the Vikings have a chance to separate themselves from the rest of the division. While the Vikings are likely to win the division, it will be difficult for them to advance far in the playoffs without a dependable option at quarterback. I do not see Case Keenum, Sam Bradford or Teddy Bridgewater leading Minnesota to victory in a high stakes game in January.

Elsewhere in the division, the Detroit Lions also have a chance at making the playoffs. Matthew Stafford is off to a strong start this season, after signing a \$135 million extension in August. Do not be surprised if Detroit sneaks into the playoffs as a wild card for the third time in four years.

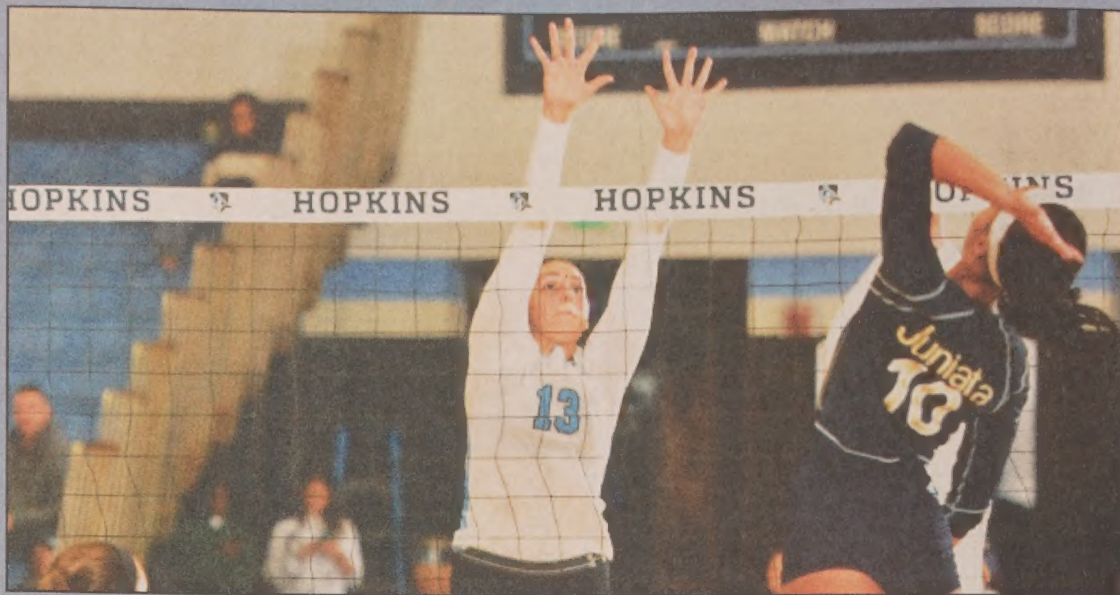
The NFC South has provided the Conference's Super Bowl team in each of the past two seasons. While all four of the division's teams remain in the playoff hunt, do not expect the aforementioned streak to continue this season.

The New Orleans Saints currently lead the division at 4-2, but I am still hesitant to believe that they are a team that can win come playoff time. The Saints have a high-flying offense, but their defense remains a major concern. As good as Drew Brees and company are, New Orleans cannot rely on winning shootouts when they are going up against the League's best defenses.

The Carolina Panthers currently sit in second place at 4-3. They certainly look better than they did in 2016, when they suffered a year-long Super Bowl hangover. However, the Panthers — especially Cam Newton —

SEE NFC, B10

W. Volleyball win streak ends at 18 matches



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The now 17th-ranked Hopkins women's volleyball team fell to the 25th-ranked Stevenson Mustangs in a tight top-25 matchup. After losing the first two sets, the Blue Jays bounced back with a third-set win. However, they could not generate enough momentum to stop the Mustangs from closing out the game in four sets. With both teams in the Mid-Atlantic Region, there is a high chance the two teams will cross paths again in the postseason.

B11

76ers need time to develop young core

INSIDE Despite the 76ers' poor early performance, the team is only three games into the NBA season. The 76ers' younger players have shown potential to transform into a hall-of-fame caliber team. PAGE B10

Athlete of the Week: RJ Moore

Freshman midfielder RJ Moore, who was recently named Centennial Conference Offensive Player of the Week, tallied his first two career goals this past Saturday against the Ursinus Bears. PAGE B11

Football dominates Gettysburg 52-0

Hopkins improves their record to 6-1 after defeating the Gettysburg Bullets 52-0. Sophomore kick returner Patrick Kelly took the opening kickoff 95 yards, tying the school's all-time record. PAGE B11

INSIDE

Men's Soccer remains unbeaten in Conference

By GREG MELICK
Sports Editor

The men's soccer team improved their undefeated Conference record this past week with two more wins: the first at home against the McDaniel College Green Terror by a score of 2-0 and the second on the road against the Ursinus College Bears by a score of 6-0.

If the Jays are able to win their final game of the season this Friday against the Dickinson College Red Devils, they will secure first place in the Centennial Conference, giving them home-field advantage for the entirety of the Conference Tournament.

Back-to-back shutouts for the Jays are not a rarity this season. In their 16 games of the season thus far, the Jays have only given up four goals and more than one in only one game.

The Jays came out attacking from the start against McDaniel. In just the 16th minute, senior defender Jonah Muniz passed to freshman midfielder RJ Moore, who put a shot home into the lower left corner for his first collegiate goal.

Hopkins had multiple opportunities throughout the first half but could not capitalize, and the score remained 1-0 at halftime. The Jays tallied 13 shots in the first half to the Green Terror's two.

The second half would entail more of the same, as the Jays put up 15 more

shots in the half to McDaniel's three. While the shot totals were impressive, the Blue Jays were only able to score on one of those 15 second-half shots. In the 55th minute, Moore kicked a corner short to senior midfielder Drew Collins, who dribbled his way towards the goal and put the Jays' second goal of the game home from 25 yards out.

The assists by Moore and Muniz put them both at seven on the season, which is tied for the team lead and is good enough for second in the Conference.

"I think the biggest thing for us has been the dynamic movement of the ball and the understanding between all the attacking players," senior midfielder Mike Swiercz said.

The offensive burst continued into Saturday's game against the Ursinus Bears. In just the fourth minute, sophomore forward Liam Moylan scored his first goal of the season to open the scoring for the Jays.

Just over 15 minutes later, fellow sophomore forward Achim Younker scored on a cross from Swiercz. Less than three minutes after that, he added his second goal of the game off a pass from sophomore defender Connor Jacobs to push the Hopkins lead to three.

As the first half ended, the Bears still had not gotten a single shot on the Jays. Meanwhile, Hopkins already tallied nine shots and three goals. It was by

far one of their best halves of the season.

The Jays started the second half in the exact same way as the first, with Moylan scoring within the first three minutes of play. Moore added to his stellar week with a goal in the 60th minute off a save by McDaniel goalie Brandon Lillian.

Hopkins added their final strike in the 88th minute when freshman forward Jonathon Brown scored off a deflected corner kick.

"I think the key to our offensive explosion was being able to get the ball in dangerous spots around their goal," Moylan said.

While the offense performed well this past week, looking forward, the Blue Jays will rely on the defense to create scoring opportunities in the game against Dickinson.

"Right now, Dickinson has the highest scoring offense in the Conference, and we have the best record as a defense, so it will

definitely be a key matchup for us defensively," Swiercz said.

The Dickinson offense has scored 2.8 goals per game this year, but the Jays' defense is currently ranked third in the country in goals allowed per game, at a measly 0.2 goals per game average.

This matchup will also be an emotional one for the seniors on the team. The four seniors on the roster will be celebrated for senior night. Moving beyond the game against Dickinson, however, the team looks forward to playing a lot more soccer.

"Obviously, our biggest goals are to win the Conference Championship and then transition that into doing our best in terms of winning the National Championship," Swiercz said.

The Blue Jays take on the Dickinson College Red Devils on Friday, Oct. 27 under the lights of Homewood Field at 7 p.m.



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Sophomore Liam Moylan contributed to Wednesday's victory with two goals.